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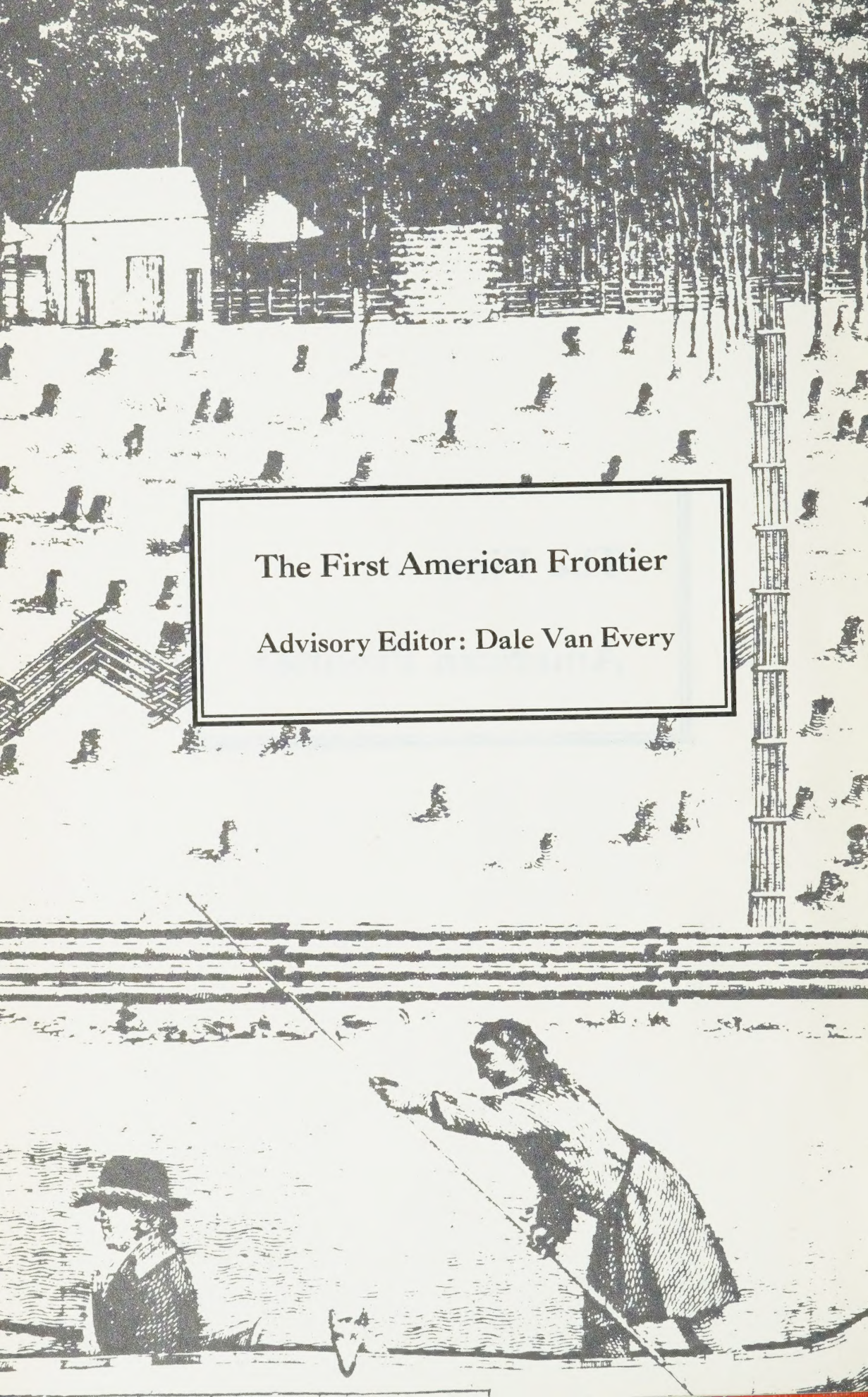

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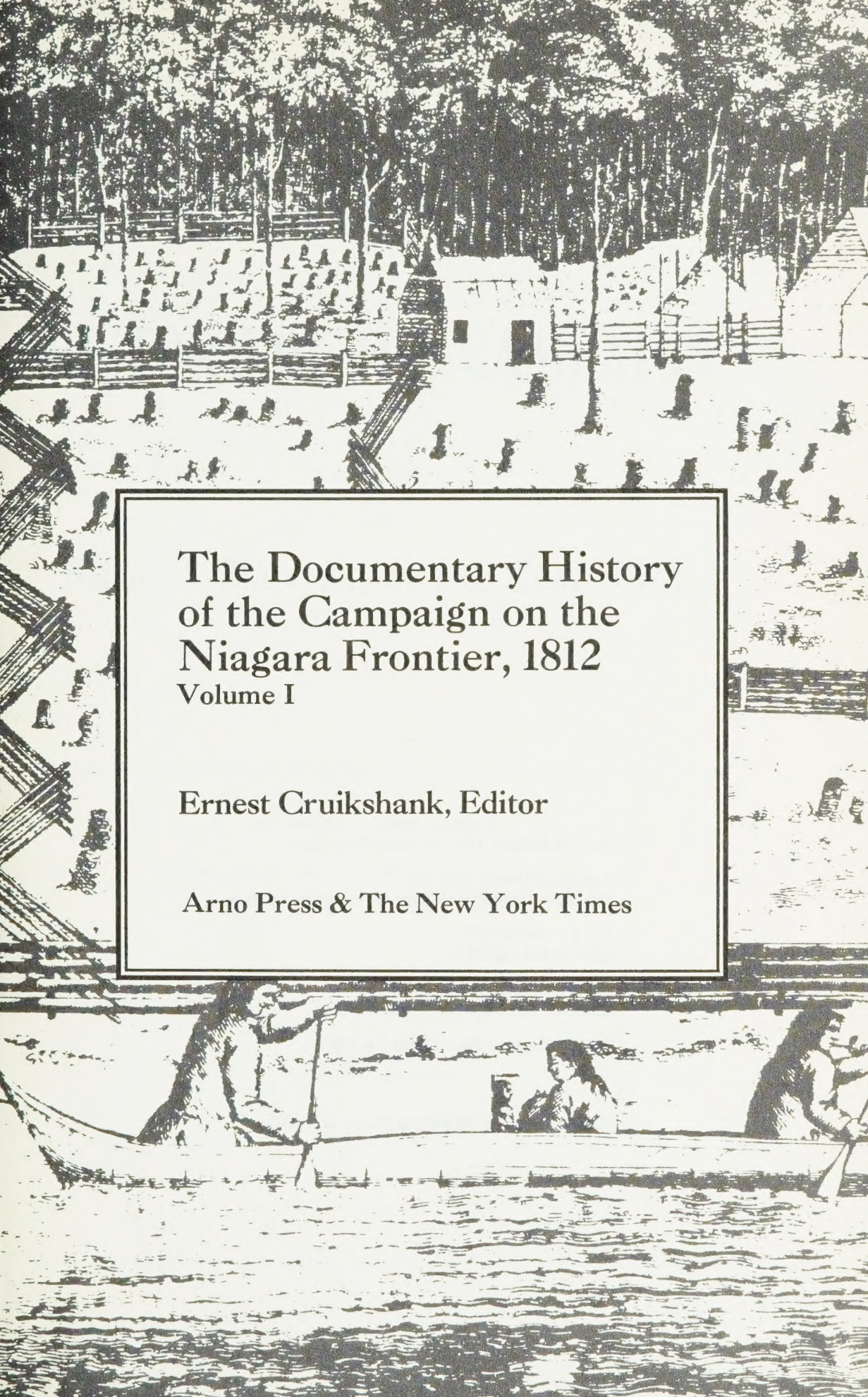
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The First American Frontier



The First American Frontier

Advisory Editor: Dale Van Every



The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier, 1812

Volume I

Ernest Cruikshank, Editor

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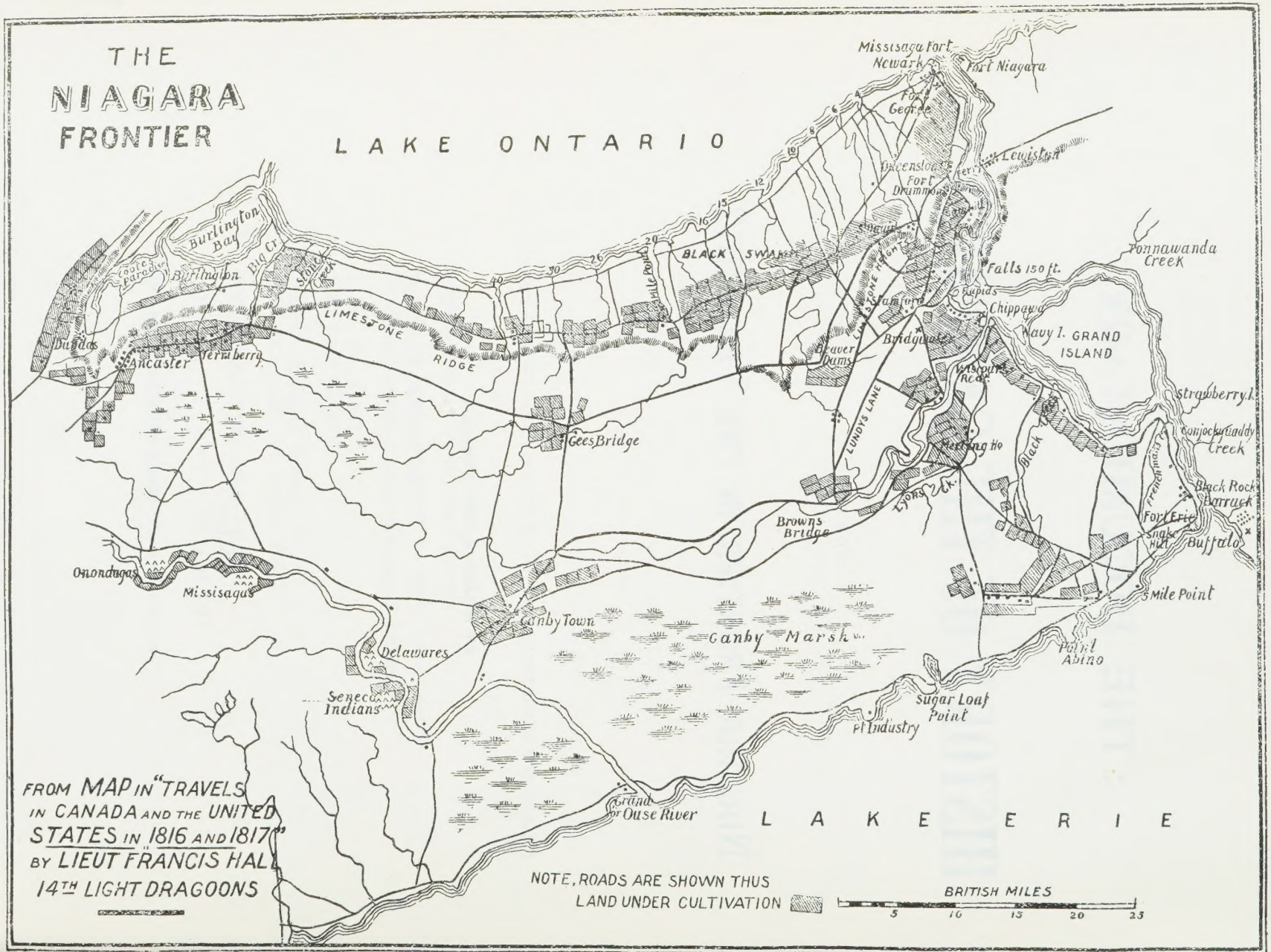
NIAGARA FRONTIER IN THE YEAR 1812.

COLLECTED AND EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY MAJOR E. CRUIKSHANK,

AUTHOR OF THE "STORY OF BUTLER'S RANGERS," &C., &C.

WELLAND:
PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE.


THE
NIAGARA
FRONTIER
LAKE ONTARIO
Missisaga Fort
Newark
Fort Niagara
Fort George
Queenston
Fort Drummond
Lewiston
Burlington Bay
Coote's Paradise
Burlington
Big Cr
Short Cr
LIMESTONE RIDGE
Dundas
Ancaster
Vermilerry
Mile Point
BLACK SWAMP
LIMESTONE RIDGE
Tonnawanda Creek
Falls 150 ft.
Cupids
Chippawa
Navy I.
GRAND ISLAND
Bridgwater
Beaver Dams
Waterloo Rd
Strawberry I.
Conjocktiddy Creek
Gees Bridge
LUNDY'S LANE
Meeting Ho
Black
Lyons Cr.
Black Rock
Barrack
Fort Erie
Snake Hill
Buffalo
Browns Bridge
Onondagas
Missisagas
Canby Town
Canby Marsh
5 Mile Point
Point Abino
Delawares
Seneca Indians
Sugar Loaf Point
Pt Industry
Grand or Ouse River
LAKE ERIE
FROM MAP IN "TRAVELS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES IN 1816 AND 1817" BY LIEUT FRANCIS HALL 14TH LIGHT DRAGOONS
NOTE, ROADS ARE SHOWN THUS
LAND UNDER CULTIVATION
BRITISH MILES
5 10 15 20 25

The Militia Law of 1808.

CHAPTER 1.

An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act of Parliament the several laws now in being, for the raising and training of the Militia of this Province.

Passed March 16th, 1808.

Whereas, a well regulated militia is of the utmost importance to the defence of this Province, and whereas the laws now in force are in some respects defective, be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain entitled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign entitled an Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province," and by authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of this Province shall and may from time to time constitute and appoint under his hand and seal a sufficent number of colonels, lieutenant-colonels, majors and other officers to train, discipline and command the militia of this Province, according to the rules, orders and directions hereinafter mentioned, and the officers so appointed for the militia shall rank with the officers of such of His Majesty's forces as may for the time being serve within the Province as the youngest of their respective rank, which said officers respectively shall within six months after their several appointments take the oath of allegiance to his present Majesty, his heirs and successors, before the magistrates assembled in quarter sessions within the district to which such officers respectively belong.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the colonel or officer commanding any regiment or battalion of militia, and he is hereby required to specify to each captain of a company of his regiment or battalion the limits from within which the militiamen of such captain's company shall be enrolled.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every male inhabitant from sixteen years of age to sixty shall

be deemed capable of bearing arms, and shall enroll his name as a militiaman on the first training day on which the said companies shall be drawn out in the division or limit in which his place of abode may be, and shall at such meeting give in his name, age, and place of residence, and if he has thereto but lately removed, he shall make the same known, together with the place from whence he removed, and every such inhabitant who shall not attend and give in his name to the captain or officer commanding the company for such division or limit, so that his name may be enrolled as a militiaman, shall for such neglect forfeit and pay the sum of ten shillings, to be recovered and applied in the manner hereinafter mentioned: Provided, nevertheless, that no inhabitant shall be convicted of the offence herein described unless it is proved at the time of trial that the same inhabitant had been notified either personally or by leaving a verbal notice at his usual place of abode of the time of meeting at least six days previous thereto: Provided always, that no person above the age of fifty years shall be called upon to bear arms, except on the day of annual meeting, or in time of war or emergency.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the neglect of any person so to present himself for enrolment and exercise shall not be construed to prevent the captain or officer commanding the company of militia of the limits wherein the place of residence of any such person may be from entering the name of such person, and such captain or officer commanding such company as aforesaid is hereby required to enter the name of every person as shall come to his knowledge upon the enrolment of his company, and when so entered every such person shall be subject to perform all and every the like militia duties, and under the same penalties as if he had personally presented himself for enrolment: provided also, that if any difference shall arise between any captain or officer and any militiaman touching the age of such militiaman, it shall be incumbent on the said militiaman to prove his age.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the colonel or officer commanding each regiment or battalion shall, on the fourth day of June in each and every year respectively, or in case it shall happen on a Sunday then on the next day, and oftener if he thinks it necessary, call out the militia of each regiment or battalion to be reviewed or exercised, and in his absence from the county, or in case of his removal or death, the said militia shall be called out by the next senior officer of such regiment or battalion, and every person liable to serve in such militia, whether officer or private, neglecting or refusing to attend (except in case of

sickness or having obtained leave of absence) shall forfeit and pay, if an officer, forty shillings, and if a non-commissioned officer or private, ten shillings; but if it shall appear to the colonel or officer commanding such regiment or battalion that it shall be more conducive to the interest of such regiment or battalion that the militia of the same be reviewed at different times and in separate bodies, it shall and may be lawful for the colonel commanding such regiment or battalion to call out a part of the militia at some convenient time and place and the remaining part at some other convenient time and place, as to him shall seem meet, and at every such review the captain or officer commanding each company shall give to the colonel, or in his absence to the next senior officer, fair written rolls of their respective companies, and the colonels or other commanding officers shall transmit returns to the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government within fourteen days after the fourth day of June in each and every year, under the penalty of five pounds for each captain or officer commanding a company, and for each colonel or officer commanding a regiment or battalion ten pounds, for such neglect or refusal.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government to appoint a proper person to be adjutant-general of the said militia, who shall do all matters and things appertaining to the said office of adjutant-general.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the captains of militia shall draw out their respective companies not less than twice or more than four times in every year (giving six days notice thereof) at the most convenient time and place in the county or riding, and shall inspect their arms and instruct them in their duties, and every person after such notice as aforesaid, who shall neglect to attend or shall disobey, whether subaltern officer or private, (except in case of sickness or leave of absence,) shall forfeit and pay, every officer the sum of forty shillings, and every non-commissioned officer or private the sum of ten shillings for every such neglect or disobedience.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in time of war, rebellion or any other pressing exigency, it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the Government, to call forth any of the different companies of militia, and to march them from their respective counties, ridings, towns, townships or parishes to any part of this Province, there to serve in conjunction with other militia or with His Majesty's forces, and any person refusing to obey such order or command, or absconding from or neglecting to repair to the place

he is ordered to, being a commissioned officer, shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty pounds and be held unfit to serve His Majesty as an officer in any military capacity; and, being a non-commissioned officer or private, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds, and in default of payment for such refusal or neglect, such officer, non-commissioned officer or private, shall be committed to the common gaol of the district for not less than six nor more than twelve calendar months, except such person shall satisfy the colonel or officer commanding such regiment or battalion to which he belongs that such refusal or neglect arose from sickness, or that he was absent upon leave. Provided always that no part of the militia called forth in the manner aforesaid shall be obliged to continue in actual service for more than six months at one time, and no militiaman shall be so called out who shall be above the age of fifty years, unless the whole of the militia of any district or battalion to which he may belong shall be called out and embodied. Provided, also, that it shall not be lawful to order the militia or any part thereof to march out of this Province, except for the assistance of the Province of Lower Canada (when the same shall be actually invaded or in a state of insurrection), or except in pursuit of an enemy who may have invaded this Province, and except also for the destruction of any vessel or vessels built or building, or any depot or magazine formed or forming, or for the attack of any enemy who may be embodying or marching for the purpose of invading this Province, or for the attack of any fortification now erected, or which may be hereafter erected, to cover the invasion thereof.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful that the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government to call out detachments of the militia, and to limit and fix the number of men to be called out in such detachments; and in cases of emergency by actual invasion or otherwise, when it may not be practicable to consult the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of this Province, it shall be and may be lawful for the senior colonel, or in his absence the lieutenant-colonel, of the several regiments or battalions to limit and appoint the number of men that he shall judge necessary to be called out, and for that purpose to issue his orders to the several commanding officers, and also to direct and authorize any officer, having first obtained a warrant for such purpose from one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to impress such carriages and horses as the service may require, for the use of which the owner or the owners thereof shall be entitled to receive the sum of seven shillings and six pence per day for every cart or carriage with two horses or oxen during such time as the same shall

be employed or detained on public service; provided always, that whenever it shall happen that only part of the militia of this province shall be called out for actual service, it shall and may be lawful for any person being of the militia of the county or riding that may be so called out to provide and send an able-bodied man to serve in the said militia in his stead, and such able-bodied man shall be taken and received as a proper substitute for such person living in the county or riding that would otherwise be obliged to serve in the said militia called out as aforesaid.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in the several counties and ridings, where the number of men would be sufficient, the militia shall be formed into regiments, consisting of not more than ten nor less than eight companies, which companies shall consist of not more than fifty nor less than twenty private men, and the field officers of such regiment shall be as follows, that is to say: One colonel, one lieutenant-colonel and one major, and where the number of companies shall be under eight and not less than five, such militia shall be formed into a battalion, and the field officers of such battalion shall be one lieutenant-colonel and one major only, and in each regiment or battalion of militia there shall be one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign to each company.

XI. And it be further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that to every regiment of militia there shall be, in addition to the officers already mentioned, one adjutant and one quartermaster, and that every field officer commanding a regiment or battalion shall fix the number of sergeants who shall serve in his regiment or battalion, and the captains of the said companies shall respectively nominate the sergeants thus fixed and make a return of their names to the field officer commanding such regiment or battalion, who is hereby authorized to approve or disapprove of such nomination.

XII. And it be further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in the several counties and ridings where the militia men are not in number sufficient to form a regiment or battalion according to the interest and meaning of this act, the militia of such counties or riding shall be formed into independent companies, each company to consist of not more than fifty or less than twenty private men, with one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign in each company, and that the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government may, when he shall think proper, join together any number of independent companies and form a battalion or battalions, or may incorporate them with any other regiment or battalion of militia; provided the number of companies in any such regiment or battalion be not thereby made to

exceed the number of companies of which a regiment or battalion of militia is hereinbefore directed to consist.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every non-commissioned officer or private who shall refuse to obey the lawful orders of his superior officer or officers when employed on militia duty, or shall quarrel with or insult by abusive words or otherwise any officer or non-commissioned officer being in the execution of his duty, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum of money not exceeding five pounds nor less than ten shillings, current money of this province, at the discretion of the justice or justices imposing such fine, and according to the nature of the offence.

XIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person who now is enrolled in any regiment, battalion or independent company shall, within six months after the passing of this act, and every person who shall hereafter be enrolled, of any regiment, battalion or independent company of militia shall, within six months after such enrolment, provide himself with a good and sufficient musket, fusil, rifle or gun, with at least six rounds of powder and ball, and shall come provided with the same at each and every time when he shall be called out, either for the purpose of review, exercise or actual service, and if any person so enrolled shall neglect or refuse to provide himself or to come so provided as in the case of review or exercise, he shall for each offence be liable to a penalty of five shillings, and in the case of actual service, to a penalty of forty shillings, to be levied in the manner hereinafter mentioned: Provided always, that when and so often as any militiaman shall make it appear to his captain or officer commanding the company that he has not been able to procure such musket, fusil, rifle or gun, it shall and may be lawful for such captain or officer commanding such company to admit of such excuse and certify the same in writing accordingly, in which case such militiaman shall not be liable to pay the said fine of five shillings in case of review or exercise and forty shillings in case of actual service.

XV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person who shall sell or barter any part of the arms and equipments which may be delivered to him out of His Majesty's stores, or who shall destroy the same, and every person who shall buy or by barter obtain such arms or equipments, shall severally and respectively forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds for every offence on conviction thereof by the oath of any one creditable witness before two justices of the peace residing within the county where the same has been committed, and in case the person or persons so selling any part of his arms or equipments as aforesaid,

or the person or persons obtaining the same in manner aforesaid, being thereof convicted as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to pay the said sum of five pounds, it shall and may be lawful for the said justices, by a warrant under their hands and seals, to commit such person or persons to the gaol of the county or district where the offence shall be committed, for any space of time not exceeding two months: Provided always that it shall and may be lawful for the said justices to discharge the person or persons so offending any time before the expiration of the said two months, when the person or persons so convicted as aforesaid shall tender to the said justices the penalty inflicted by this Act.

XVI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that at all times when the militia may be called out and embodied for actual service the officers, non-commissioned officers and private men of the several regiments, battalions and independent companies of militia, shall from the time of their being drawn out and embodied as aforesaid, and until they shall return to their respective towns, townships, parishes or places of abode, remain under the command of the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the Government, or other officer having the command of them, and shall be liable to punishment for mutiny and desertion as hereinafter mentioned: that is to say, that every officer, non-commissioned officer or militiaman who shall presume to use traitorous or disrespectful words against His Majesty's royal person, or disrespectful words against any of the royal family, if a commissioned officer shall, upon conviction thereof before a general courtmartial, as hereinafter directed to be established, be cashiered: if a non-commissioned officer or private, he shall suffer such punishment as by the sentence of the said courtmartial shall be awarded.

XVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any officer, non-commissioned officer or militiaman who shall behave himself with contempt or disrespect towards the governor, lieutenant-governor or the person administering the Government for the time being, or shall speak words tending to their hurt or dishonor, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence by the judgment of a general courtmartial.

XVIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any officer, non-commissioned officer or militiaman who shall begin, excite, cause or join in any mutiny or sedition in the regiment, detachment, troop or company to which he belongs, or in any other regiment, detachment, troop or company, whether of embodied militia or of His Majesty's regular or provincial forces in any camp or post, or upon any party, detachment or guard, on any pretence whatsoever,

shall suffer death or such other punishment as by a general court-martial shall be awarded.

XIX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any officer, non-commissioned officer or militiaman who being present at any mutiny or sedition shall not use his utmost endeavors to suppress the same, or coming to the knowledge of any mutiny or or intended mutiny shall not without delay give information thereof to his commanding officer, shall suffer such punishment as by a general courtmartial shall be awarded.

XX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all officers, non-commissioned officers and militiamen, who shall be convicted of having deserted to the enemy, shall suffer death or such other punishment as shall be awarded by a general courtmartial.

XXI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any non-commissioned officer or militiaman who shall quit or otherwise absent himself from his regiment, detachment, troop or company without a furlough from his commanding officer, or who shall withdraw himself from the regiment, detachment, troop or company then in service, whether of the militia or of His Majesty's regular or provincial forces, shall, upon being convicted thereof, be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a courtmartial, and in case any officer of the militia shall knowingly receive and entertain such non-commissioned officer or militiaman, or shall not after his being discovered to be a deserter immediately confine him and give notice to the regiment, detachment, troop or company in which he last served, he, the said officer so offending, shall on being convicted thereof before a general courtmartial be cashiered.

XXII. And be it further enacted by the authority thereof, that if any officer, non-commissioned officer or militiaman shall be convicted of having advised or persuaded any other officer or militiaman to desert His Majesty's service, he shall suffer such punishment as shall be awarded by a general courtmartial.

XXIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when the militia of this province shall be called out on actual service, in all cases where a general courtmartial shall be required, the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government, upon complaint and application to him made through the colonel or officer commanding the body of militia to which the party accused may belong, shall issue his order to the said commanding officer to assemble a general courtmartial, which said courtmartial shall consist of a president, who shall be a field officer, and twelve other commissioned officers of militia; provided always, that in all trials by general courtmartial, to be held by virtue of

this act, the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government, shall nominate and appoint the person who shall act as judge advocate, and that every member of the said courtmartial before any proceedings be had before that court, shall take the following oath before the said judge advocate, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, viz:

"You, A. B., do swear that you will administer justice to the best of your understanding in the matter now before you, according to the evidence and, the militia laws now in force in this province without partiality, favor or affection; and you further swear that you will not divulge the sentence of the court until it shall be approved by the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government; neither will you upon any account, at any time whatsoever, disclose or discover the vote or opinion of any particular member of the courtmartial, unless required to give evidence thereof as a witness by a court of justice in due course of law. So help you God.

And so soon as the said oath shall have been administered to the respective members, the president of the court is hereby authorized to administer to the judge advocate or the person officiating as such, an oath in the following words:—

"You, A. B., do swear that you will not upon any account, at any time whatsoever, disclose or discover the vote or opinion of any particular member of the courtmartial, unless required to give evidence thereof as a witness by a court of justice in a due course of law. So help you God."

And the said judge advocate shall, and he is hereby authorized, to administer to every person giving evidence before the said court, the following oath:—

"The evidence that you shall give to this courtmartial upon the trial of A. B., shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God."

Provided always that the judgment of every such courtmartial shall pass with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members, and shall not be put in execution until the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government has approved thereof; Provided always, that no officer serving in any of His Majesty's other forces shall sit in any courtmartial upon the trial of any officer or private man serving in the militia.

XXIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that during the time in which the said militia shall be embodied for actual service they and every of them, as well officers as privates, shall be liable and subject to all and every the provisions, regulations, matters and things in this Act contained respecting the said

militia, and also in cases to which the provisions of this Act do not extend, to all the rules, regulations, pains and penalties of any Act or Acts of the British Parliament that are or may be in force for the punishment of mutiny and desertion, not contrary to this Act; provided nevertheless, that no sentence of any courtmartial so to be constituted and established under and by virtue of this Act shall extend to the loss of life or limb, unless for desertion, mutiny and sedition, traitorous correspondence, or for traitorously delivering up to the enemy any garrison, fortress, post, or guard, anything herein contained or any statute, law, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding; provided always, that in no case whatsoever shall any non-commissioned officer or private man, for any offence by him committed be subjected to the punishment of being whipped by the sentence of any courtmartial whatsoever.

XXV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in all cases where a militia officer not on actual service shall be guilty of improper conduct or do anything unbecoming his character as such officer, not otherwise provided for in this Act, the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the Government, upon complaint and application made to him through the colonel or other field officer of militia commanding the respective regiment or battalion to which the said officer against whom the complaint is made may belong, or in case the said colonel or other field officer is the party accused, to the next in command, to issue his order to assemble a court of enquiry, which court shall consist of one field officer in rank superior to the officer accused, who shall be president thereof, together with not not less than four other commissioned officers; and such court of enquiry shall examine witnesses and take every necessary step to investigate the matter alleged in the complaint against the said militia officer and report the evidence in that behalf brought before them to the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the Government, for his decision thereon.

XXVI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that except in time of actual service, the judges of the court of King's bench, and clergy, the members of the legislative and executive councils and their respective officers, the members of the house of assembly for the time being and the officers thereto belonging, His Majesty's attorney general, solicitor general, the secretary of the Province and all other civil officers who have been or hereafter may be appointed to any civil office in this Province under the great seal of the same, as well as all magistrates, sheriffs, coroners, half-pay officers, militia officers having served by virtue of any militia commission in any part of His Majesty's dominion (who may not have been removed for any offence as an officer of militia,

or who may have obtained leave to resign his commission), the surveyor-general and his deputies duly appointed, seafaring men actually employed in the line of their calling, physicians, surgeons, the masters of the public schools, ferrymen and one miller to every grist mill, shall be and are hereby excused from serving in the said militia: Provided always that this Act and the exceptions herein contained shall not prevent, and it is hereby declared that the same shall not be construed to prevent any or every of the above mentioned person or persons from holding commissions as officers in the militia in this Province: Provided always that it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of this Province by warrant under his hand and seal to exempt any of the persons hereinbefore enumerated from being called out on the service aforesaid.

XXVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the persons called Quakers, Mennonists and Tunkers, who from certain scruples of conscience decline bearing arms, shall not be compelled to serve in the said militia, but every person professing that he is one of the people called Quakers, Mennonists or Tunkers producing a certificate of his being a Quaker, Mennonist or Tunker signed by the clerk of the meeting of such society, or by any three or more of the people called Quakers, Menonnists or Tunkers, shall be excused and exempted from serving in the said militia: provided, nevertheless, that every such person that shall or may be of the people called Quakers, Mennonists or Tunkers, from the age of sixteen to sixty, shall, on or before the first day of December in each and every year, give in his name and place of residence to the treasurer of the district where he or they shall reside, and pay to such treasurer to and for the public uses of such district in time of peace the sum of twenty shillings, and in time of actual invasion or insurrection, or when any part of the militia of that district shall be called out on actual service, the sum of five pounds, and in default of such payment, it shall and may be lawful on information or complaint on oath made by the said treasurer before any justice of the peace of such district, for such justice to issue his warrant under his hand and seal to levy the same by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, returning so much of the said distress as shall exceed the sum of twenty shillings per annum in time of peace and five pounds per annum in time of actual invasion or insurrection, or when any part of the militia of that district shall be called out on actual service, deducting therefrom the charges and all other incidental expenses of such distress and sale, as well as the expenses of summoning such offender before such justice as aforesaid, shall be by him within the space of two calendar months paid

into the hands of the colonel, or in his absence, the next senior officer of the regiment, battalion or independent company of the division where the offence has been committed, to be applied for the like purposes as the fines, forfeitures and penalties imposed by this act, and for want of such distress the justice before whom such person shall have been summoned, shall commit him to the common gaol of the district until he shall pay and satisfy such sum, together with the reasonable charges incident to such conviction; provided, nevertheless, that no person or persons so committed shall in any case be detained in custody longer than the space of one calendar month; provided also, and it is hereby enacted, that each and every of the persons usually called Quakers, Mennonists and Tunkers that have attained the age of fifty years shall not be liable to the payment of such sum of twenty shillings for being exempted from serving in the said militia in time of peace, but that in time of war or other emergency they shall be liable to serve or to the payment of five pounds for being exempted for every year until they shall have attained the age of sixty years.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in time of war when and so often as occasion may require, it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of this Province to employ the militia of this Province either upon land or upon the lakes, rivers, and communications thereof in such parties or detachments as may by him be deemed expedient.

XXIX. And whereas, by a certain clause in this Act it is provided that it shall and may be lawful for the persons therein mentioned on certain occasions to call out detachments of the militia, be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the persons to serve on detachment shall be regularly taken from time to time, as they shall be required, from a roster or list to regulate the turn of duty, to be first formed by ballot of each and every person in each respective battalion, regiment or independent company, and that after the same has been formed, when any person shall be enrolled as a militiaman in any battalion, regiment or independent company, the name of such man shall be inserted and follow the last person in the said roster, the initial of whose surname corresponds with the initial of the surname of the man so to be inserted, and when any detachment shall be called out for service the adjutant or officer commanding each regiment, battalion or independent company shall give notice to the persons of their turn of duty.

XXX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when any detachments are formed and called out for public

service, it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of this Province to divide the same into smaller detachments or parties and appoint them to serve on board vessels, boats, or batteaux upon any of the lakes, rivers or communications by water of this Province with great guns or artillery, as well as with small arms, as occasion may require, and shall and may appoint them to be stationary in any of the creeks or harbors of the said lakes, or in any of the rivers of the province, and also to train and exercise the same to the use of great guns and artillery as well by land as by water.

XXXI. And whereas it may be convenient to form one or more troops of cavalry, be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of this Province to form and embody such troop or troops and to employ the same on such duties as the necessity of the service may require.

XXXII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all detachments to be called out and employed as aforesaid, shall, and may, if need require, be detained on such service for and during the space of six months at one time and no longer: provided, that every such detachment be relieved by the arrival of a fresh detachment, sufficient for the indispensable occasions of the service at such period, for which purpose, it shall and may be lawful for the proper officer one week at least before the expiration of the said period of service to call together the remaining parts of the regiment, battalion or independent company or so many as may be necessary according to their several terms, to be regulated by the roster as aforesaid, to relieve such detachment.

XXXIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if such detachment cannot be replaced by an equal number of men of the remaining part of such regiment, battalion or independent company, respectively, then and in such case every detachment to be relieved as aforesaid shall ballot or draw lots for such a number of men as may be wanting to make the succeeding detachment equal to the detachment to be relieved, and the parties whose names shall be drawn shall be liable to serve with the said detachment, but in the case of a partial relief they shall be the first to be relieved, either wholly or by ballot, according to the number to be relieved.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when any person shall have been convicted of any offence against this Act and shall refuse to pay the fine, forfeiture or penalty imposed on such offender, it shall and may be lawful to and for the justice or justices before whom such person shall have been

convicted to commit such offender to the common gaol of the district until he shall pay and satisfy such fine, forfeiture or penalty, together with the reasonable charges attending such conviction: Provided, nevertheless, that no person or persons so committed shall in any case be detained in custody longer than the space of one calendar month, except in such cases as are otherwise provided for by this Act.

XXXV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no persons who have been discharged from His Majesty's service as non-commissioned officers shall be obliged to serve in any station in the militia in this Province inferior to that which they held in His Majesty's service, unless, having been non-commissioned officers in the said militia, they may have been reduced according to law.

XXXVI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person enrolled in the militia shall absent or withdraw himself from any place of review or exercise without having first obtained leave of his commanding officer so to do, under the penalty of forty shillings if a commissioned officer, and ten shillings if a non-commissioned officer or private.

XXXVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any sergeant of militia, when thereunto requested by his superior and proper officer, shall neglect or refuse to warn the militiamen of the company which he belongs to appear at the place of enrolment or exercise, he shall for every such neglect or refusal pay the sum of forty shillings.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every sergeant in the militia duly appointed shall be exempt from serving as constable for and during such time as he shall hold such appointment as sergeant.

XXXIX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person be wounded or shall be disabled when employed on actual service, upon an invasion, insurrection or rebellion, he shall be taken care of and attended during the time of such disability agreeably to his rank.

XL. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when any person shall be summoned before two of His Majesty's justices of the peace as aforesaid for having neglected or refused to do such things as by this Act are required of him to be performed, and shall, upon the oath of one credible witness before such justices be duly convicted of such offence, such person shall pay the charges and expenses of and incident to such conviction, and that all fines, penalties and forfeitures by this Act imposed, on default of payment, shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods

and chattels of the offender by warrant under the hands and seals of the justices before whom the said offender shall be convicted, rendering the overplus (if any) to the said person whose goods and chattels shall have been so distrained and sold, after deducting therefrom the charges of such distress and sale, and within two months after such conviction and recovery, the sums so recovered shall be transmitted by the justices before whom such information shall have been laid to the colonel, or in his absence, to the next senior officer of the regiment, battalion or independent company, and the said colonels and other officers respectively shall, and they are hereby required, out of the several sums of money which they shall receive for fines, forfeitures or penalties, or otherwise by virtue of this Act, to provide for their regiments in their respective counties or ridings, drums, fifes, colors, banners, regimental books, and for the discharge of other incidental expenses, and in case any any overplus of such monies shall remain in the hands of any such colonel or other officer after providing such articles as aforesaid, such surplus shall be disposed of in premiums to the persons who shall make the best shot at a target or mark upon days of training, and in such proportions as at a meeting the colonels or officers commanding regiments, battalions or independent companies, shall order and direct, and each colonel, or in his absence, the next senior officer of the regiment, battalion or independent company, shall render a certified account thereof in detail, to be transmitted to the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government, as soon after the thirty-first day of December annually as practicable.

XLI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no order of conviction made by any justice or justices of the peace by virtue of this Act shall be removed by certiorari out of the county, riding, division, or place wherein such order or conviction shall have been made, into any court whatsoever, and that no writ of certiorari shall supersede execution on other proceedings upon any such order or conviction so made in pursuance of this Act, but that execution and other proceedings shall be had and made thereupon, any such writ or writs or allowance thereof notwithstanding; provided always, that the fines, forfeitures or penalties to be levied by virtue of such order or conviction shall not exceed the sum of twenty pounds.

XLII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any action shall be brought against any person or persons for anything done in pursuance of this Act, such action or suit shall be commenced within six months after the fact committed and not afterwards, and shall be laid in the county, riding or place where

the cause of complaint did arise, and not elsewhere, and the defendant or defendants in every such action or suit may plead the general issue and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon, and if the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants in any such action or suit, and if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be non-suited or discontinue his, her or their action or suit, after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, or if, upon demurrer, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall have treble costs and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in other cases to recover costs by law.

XLIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all former Acts relating to the raising of the militia within this Province shall from and after the passing of this Act be and are hereby repealed: Provided, nevertheless, that nothing in this Act contained shall in anywise extend or be construed to extend to annul or make void any militia appointment which may have taken place in pursuance of the former Acts relating to the militia forces, or to prevent the completing of any proceedings commenced in pursuance thereof, until new commissions are issued under and by virtue of this Act.

REPORT OF LIEUT.-COLONEL BRUYERES, R. E.

QUEBEC, 24th August, 1811.

Report of the State of the Fortified Military Posts in Both the Canadas.

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FORT GEORGE.—Situated on the west bank of the River Niagara, about one mile from Lake Ontario, is an irregular field work, consisting of six small bastions, faced with framed timber and plank. These bastions are connected with a line of picketing, twelve feet in height. The whole of this work is very much out of repair; its situation and construction very defective, and cannot be considered capable of much defence. The troops are lodged in blockhouses within the fort, which contain quarters for about 220 men, exclusive of a spacious building for the officers. The magazine is a stone building, arched, but not bomb-proof.

FORT CHIPPAWA.—Situated on the right bank of the River Chippawa, about 16 miles from Fort George. It is the termination of the carrying place, nine miles from the west landing, and one and one-half miles above the Falls. This post can only be considered a transport post for depositing and forwarding stores to the upper lakes. It consists merely of a large blockhouse, containing quarters for one officer and thirty-six men, and storeroom sufficient for the stores deposited there. It is enclosed with a line of picketing very much decayed, and cannot be considered capable of any defence.

FORT ERIE.—Situated at the entrance to Lake Erie, eighteen miles above Fort Chippawa. The old fort on the borders of the lake is in ruins and totally abandoned. The construction of a new fort, projected by Lieut.-General Mann, on the rising ground above the site of the old fort, to be built of masonry, was begun in the spring of 1805, in conformity with a report approved by Lord Hobart, Secretary of State, in a letter to General Hunter. This work was continued until the latter end of the year 1807, when it was put a stop to by order of General Sir James Craig on his arrival at Quebec. At the time of closing, the two piles of barracks, together with the masonry of two bastions fronting the lake, were finished, the ditch excavated and part of the masonry founded of two bastions towards the land. The interior of the barracks, only partly completed, to accommodate troops quartered at the post. The remainder unfinished and has received some injury from remaining

so long neglected. Fort Erie cannot be considered a strong military position, but as it is necessary always to have some troops stationed at this post, to carry on transport and communication with Amherstburg and St. Joseph's, the necessary security and accommodation might be probably obtained by completing this post.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1811.)

Major-General George Glasgow, R. A., to Sir George Prevost.

REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE MAGAZINES, STOREHOUSES, PLATFORMS, CARRIAGES, ORDNANCE AND STORES, IN CHARGE OF THE FIELD TRAIN DEPARTMENT IN CANADA UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF ARTILLERY.

QUEBEC, 18th Sept., 1811.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Neither horses nor drivers having been attached to the field train in Canada, the officers and men of the artillery are but little acquainted with the present system of field exercise, and the present strength of the detachment of artillery is by no means in proportion to the services required of so extensive a command.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

At Kingston there is a light 6-pounder, a sergeant and two gunners; the magazine unfinished and unprotected.

At York there are two light 6-pounders; neither magazine nor storehouse, one sergeant and one gunner.

At Fort George there are for garrison use six 12-pounders, three 9-pounders and one mortar, all of iron; of brass, one 12-pounder, five light 6-pounders, four 3-pounders and a $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch howitzer with cars, five cast iron mortars with carriages, harness, etc. The magazine is not bombproof; the storehouses are under the barracks, in wooden buildings. A captain, three non-commissioned officers and twenty-one gunners stationed here.

* * * * * * * * * * *

In the present situation of the posts of Upper Canada there is not one situation that can be considered safe as a depot. The works are faced and lined with wood, the bastions connected by palisades. The buildings are of wood, liable at all times to accident by fire, and within the power of an enemy to be burnt whenever he chose to undertake it.

A depot at a distance from the frontier is much wanted, where the powder, ammunition, field pieces, small arms and naval stores

not immediately wanted might be kept in more safety, and where an establishment might be formed for making and repairing carriages, and other purposes essential to the service.

York seems to present a situation well adapted for such a purpose.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1811.)

Major-General Isaac Brock to Sir George Provost.

YORK, Upper Canada, Dec. 2d, 1811.

SIR,—The information contained in the message of the President to Congress relative to the existing differences between England and the United States will justify, I presumed to think, the adoption of such precautionary measures as may be necessary to meet all future exigencies. Under this impression, I beg leave to submit to Your Excellency such observations as occur to me to enable you to form a correct judgment of the actual state of this Province.

The military force which heretofore occupied the frontier posts being so inadequate to their defence, a general opinion obtained that no opposition in the event of hostilities was intended. The late increase of ammunition and every species of stores, the substitution of a strong regiment and the appointment of a military person to administer the Government, have tended to infuse other sentiments among the most reflecting part of the community, and I feel happy in being able to assure Your Excellency that during my visit last week to Niagara I received the most satisfactory professions of a determination on the part of the principal inhabitants to exert every means in their power in defence of their property and support of the Government. They look with confidence to Your Excellency for such additional aid as may be necessary in conjunction with the militia to repel any hostile attempt against this Province. I shall beg leave to refer Your Excellency to the communications of Lieutenant-Governor Gore with Sir James Craig (as per margin) for a correct view of the temper and composition of the militia and Indians, and altho' perfectly aware of the number of improper characters who have obtained extensive possessions and whose principles diffuse a spirit of insubordination very adverse to all military institutions, yet I feel confident a large majority will prove faithful. It is, however, certain that the best policy to be pursued, should future circumstances call for active preparations, will be to act with the utmost liberality and as if no mistrust existed. For, unless the inhabitants give an active and

1st Dec., 1807.
5th Jan., 1808.
20th Feb., 1809, the latter enclosing an extract from correspondence with Lt.-Col. Grant. 41st Regt., dated Amherstburg, 5th Jan., 1808.

efficient aid, it will be utterly impossible for the very limited number of the military who are likely to be employed to preserve the Province.

The first point to which I am anxious to call Your Excellency's attention is the District of Amherstburg. I consider it the most important, and if supplied with the means of commencing active operations must deter the Americans from any offensive attempt from Niagara westward.

That Government will be compelled to secure their western frontier from the inroads of the Indians, and this cannot be effected without a very considerable force. But before we can expect an active co-operation on the part of the Indians, the reduction of Detroit and Michilimackinac must convince that people (who consider themselves to have been sacrificed to our policy in 1794) that we are earnestly engaged in the war. The Indians, I am given to understand, are eager for an opportunity to avenge the numerous injuries of which they complain. A few tribes at the instigation of a Shawanese of no note, have already (altho' explicitly told not to look for assistance from us) commenced the contest. The stand which they continue to make on the Wabash against about two thousand regulars and militia is a strong proof of the strong force which a general combination of the Indians will render necessary to protect so widely extended a frontier. The garrisons of Detroit and Michilimackinac do not, I believe, exceed seventy rank and file each, but the former can be easily reinforced by the militia in the neighborhood, which tho' not numerous would be sufficient for its defence unless assailed by a force much superior to any we can now command. The Americans would draw their principal force either for defence or attack from the Ohio, an enterprising, hardy race and uncommonly expert on horseback with the rifle. This species of force is formidable to the Indians, altho' according to reports which have reached me by different channels (but none officially) they have lately repelled an attack of some magnitude. Unless a diversion such as I have suggested be made, an overwhelming force will probably be directed against this part of the province. The measure will, however, be attended with a heavy expense, especially in the article of provisions, for not only the Indians who take the field, but also their families, must be maintained. The numerical force of the militia in the vicinity of Amherstburg exceeds by a trifle seven hundred rank and file. Consequently very little assistance can be derived from that source in any offensive operation. Should, therefore, the aspect of affairs hereafter give stronger indications of a rupture, I propose augmenting the garrison of Amherstburg with two hundred rank and file from Fort George

and York. Such a measure I consider essentially necessary, were it only calculated to rouse the energy of both militia and Indians, who are now impressed with a firm belief that in the event of a war they are to be left to their fate. Great pains have been taken to instil this idea into the minds of the Indians, and no stronger argument could be employed than the weak state of the garrison. The army now assembled on the Wabash, with the ostensible view of opposing the Shawanese Indians, is a strong additional motive in my mind in support of the measure, for I have no doubt but the instant their service in the field terminates a large portion of the regulars will be detached to strengthen the garrison at Detroit. I have prepared Colonel Procter for such an event, and after weighing the inconvenience to which the service would be exposed if the district were placed under a militia colonel, (an event obvious, unless superseded by a regular officer of equal rank,) I have directed Lieut.-Col. St. George to be in readiness to repair to Amherstburg and assume the command. I entertain a high opinion of this officer, and make no doubt that his intelligence and conciliatory disposition will greatly promote the service. At any rate, I am without a choice, and hope his situation of Inspector of Militia will not be considered a bar to the arrangement. The state of the roads will probably stop this projected movement until the latter end of this month or beginning of next, nor do I intend that the troops should leave their present quarters unless urged by fresh circumstances. I therefore look to receive Your Excellency's commands previous to their departure.

From Amherstburg to Fort Erie, my chief dependence must rest on a naval force for the protection of that extensive coast. But considering the state to which it is reduced, extraordinary exertions and great expense will be required before it can be rendered efficient. At present it only consists of a ship and a small schooner, the latter of a bad construction, old, and in want of many repairs, yet she is the only King's vessel able to navigate Lake Huron, whilst the Americans have a sloop and a fine brig, capable of carrying twelve guns and in perfect readiness for any service. If consequently the garrison of St. Josephs is to be maintained and an attack on Michilimackinac undertaken, it will be expedient to hire or purchase from the merchants as many vessels as may be necessary for the purpose. The Americans can resort to the same means, and the construction and number of their vessels for trade will give them great advantage, besides their small craft or boats in which troops could be easily transported across the waters exceed ours considerably. Indeed, we have very few of that description. I therefore leave it to Your Excellency's superior judgment to determine

whether a sufficient number of gunboats for both lakes, so constructed as to draw little water, ought not to be added to our means of defence and offence. It is worthy of remark that the only American national vessel on Lake Ontario, built two years ago and now laying in Sackett's Harbor, has remained without seamen until within the last fortnight, when the officers began to enter men as fast as possible. A lieutenant with a party came to Buffalo (a tolerably large village opposite Fort Erie) and procured several hands, but, not satisfied, a petty officer was sent to our side to inveigle others. The magistrates hearing of this sent to have him arrested, but he with difficulty escaped. The strait between Niagara and Fort Erie is that which in all probability will be chosen for their main body to penetrate with a view to conquest. All other attacks will be subordinate or merely made to divert our attention.

About 3,000 militia could, upon an emergency, be drawn to that line, and nearly five hundred Indians could likewise be collected; therefore, with the regulars, no trifling force could hope for success provided a determined resistance was made, but I cannot hide from Your Excellency that unless a strong military force be present to animate the loyal and control the disaffected nothing effectual can be expected. A protracted resistance upon this frontier will be sure to embarrass their plans materially. They will not come prepared to meet it, and their troops or volunteer corps without scarcely any discipline (as far at least as control is in question) will soon tire under disappointment. The difficulty which they will experience in providing provisions will involve them into expenses, under which their Government will soon become impatient. The car-brigade will be particularly useful in obstructing their passage, and I cannot be too urgent in soliciting the means, both as to gunners and drivers, and likewise as to horses, to render the one at Fort George complete for service. A small body of cavalry would be absolutely necessary, and I have already offers from many respectable young men to form themselves into a troop. All they seem to require are swords and pistols, which the stores below may probably be able to furnish. The situation of Kingston is so very important in every military point of view that I cannot be too earnest in drawing Your Excellency's attention to that quarter. The militia from the Bay of Quinte down to Glengarry is the most respectable of any in the province. Among the officers, several are on half-pay, who still retain a sound military spirit. Those from the Bay of Quinte would be properly stationed at Kingston, but all downwards would naturally desire to be employed to resist any predatory excursions, to which their property would be

so much exposed from the opposite shore. I have, besides, been always of the opinion that a strong detachment would follow the route of Lord Amherst and attempt to enter the Province by Oswagatchie. The militia on the whole of that communication cannot therefore be more usefully employed than in watching such a movement, and should the enemy direct the whole of his force by St. Johns, the greater part can, with the utmost facility, join the army acting upon that frontier.

The Militia Act, which I have the honor to transmit, provides for such emergency, and Your Excellency will readily observe among many wise and salutary provisions but few means of enforcing them.

No exertions, however, shall be wanting in my civil capacity to place that body upon a respectable footing. Mr. Cartwright, the senior militia colonel at Kingston, possesses the influence to which his firm character and superior abilities so deservedly entitle him; but as I cannot possibly give the necessary attention to so distant an object, and as a regular officer will be indispensable to direct the operations, one of high rank ought, if possible, to be nominated to that command.

So much will remain to be done, and such high expenses to be incurred in the Quarter Master General's department, that I cannot be too earnest with Your Excellency in requesting that an officer equal to the situation may be appointed. A head to the commissariat will likewise be indispensable.

I have trespassed greatly on Your Excellency's time, but I beg to be permitted to entreat Your Excellency to honor me with such advice and counsel as Your Excellency may suggest, and be assured my utmost pride will be to meet your views and merit your approbation.

(Canadian Archives, C. 673, p. 171.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

York, December 11, 1812.

Sir,—I had the honor yesterday of receiving Your Excellency's letter of the 1st ultimo, stating your intention of establishing depots of small arms, accoutrements, and ammunition at the different posts in Upper Canada.

Since the settlement of the Province several thousand stands have been at different times issued to the militia, and I have given directions for collecting them, but in all probability great deficiencies will be found; indeed, it has been already ascertained that those delivered in 1795 by Lieut.-General Simcoe are wholly lost to the service. To obviate for the future such an extensive waste, I pro-

pose fixing upon proper places at each post wherein the arms may be deposited after the militia have exercised, and I have to request Your Excellency's permission to direct the field-train department to attend to their preservation and keep them in a state of repair, in the same manner as those remaining in store. The expense cannot be great, and in all such cases the infant state of the country obliges the militia to have recourse to the military.

I have recently had occasion to report for Your Excellency's information the total want of stores at this post beyond those immediately necessary for the commissariat. I shall, consequently, be much at a loss to find accommodation for the 2,329 French muskets which Your Excellency has directed to be sent here; and as the only magazine is a small wooden shed, not sixty yards from the King's house, which is rendered dangerous from the quantity of powder it already contains, I cannot but feel a repugnance to lodge the additional 13,140 ball cartridges intended for this post in a place so evidently insecure. But as these arrangements cannot conveniently take place until the opening of navigation, there will be sufficient time to contrive the best means to meet Your Excellency's wishes.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, p. 130.)

Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

QUEBEC, December 24, 1811.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, which reached me by the courier on Saturday, and I have not failed to give it that consideration which the importance of the several points to which it alludes entitle it.

In addition to the President's message being full of gunpowder, the report made to Congress by its committee on the state of the foreign affairs of the United States conveys sentiments of such decided hostility towards England that I feel justified in recommending such precaution as may place you in a state of preparation for that event, and with this view you must endeavor to trace an outline of co-operation compensating for our deficiency in strength. I agree with you as to the advantages which may result from giving rather than receiving the first blow, but it is not my opinion war will commence by a declaration of it. That act would militate against the policy of both countries; therefore we must expect repeated petty aggressions from our neighbors before we are permitted to retaliate by open hostilities. It is very satisfactory to observe the professions of the inhabitants of Upper Canada in defence of their property and in support of their Government.

I will look into the correspondence you refer to which took

place between Sir James Craig and Lieut.-Governor Gore in 1807, 1808, and 1809, respecting the temper and disposition of your militia and the policy to be observed in your intercourse with the Indians.

Your views in regard to the line of conduct to be observed towards the militia forces, notwithstanding some existing circumstances unfavorable in their composition, are in my estimation wise, and on such conception I have hitherto acted.

There are too many considerations to allow me to hesitate in saying we must employ the Indians, if they can be brought to act with us. The utmost caution should be used in our language to them, and all direct explanation should be delayed if possible until hostilities are more certain, though whenever the subject is adverted to I think it would be advisable always to intimate that as a matter of course we shall, in the event of war, expect the aid of our brothers. Although I am sensible this requires delicacy, still it should be done so as not to be misunderstood.

I shall call the attention of the commissariat to the supply of provisions that may be required in the Upper Province, and I had, previously to the arrival of your letter, given the deputy-quartermaster-general directions for the building of another schooner for Lake Erie.

I am sorry to observe, both by your Militia Act and returns [that] you are embarrassed with officers holding the rank of colonel. It is certainly desirable that no higher rank should exist than that of lieutenant-colonel commandant, else, in many cases, the officers of militia on service might be seniors to the officers of the line in command of regiments. It is, I am apprehensive, scarcely possible to revoke the commissions of colonel which have been issued to the commanding officers of battalions of militia for that of lieutenant-colonel; therefore if commissions cannot without serious dissatisfaction be withdrawn, you are authorized in that case, in order to preserve the command of the inspecting field officer, to direct Lieut.-Colonel St. George to act with the local rank of colonel in Upper Canada, giving at the same time (should circumstances make it necessary that the troops of the line and those of the militia be called to act together) a corresponding local brevet to such lieutenant-colonels serving in regiments of the line immediately under your command as may appear to you necessary to obviate the inconvenience that may be anticipated from their having junior rank to officers in command of militia regiments, but as this latter arrangement is not free from considerable objection you must modify the measure as much as circumstances will permit.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, p. 153.)

Memorandum to be Submitted to His Excellency, the Gov.-in-Chief, by Desire of Major General Brock.

To reinforce the 41st by sending up their recruits, and to send the regiment to Amherstburg, together with 50 artillery.

To send ordnance suited to the reduction of Detroit (4 to 6 eight-inch mortars).

To explain the nature of the offensive operations proposed in that quarter.

Militia on the Detroit side, 300 men, mostly Canadians; Kentucky population, 400,000 souls; Amherstburg furnishes 700 militia; Indians in the vicinity, from 2 to 3,000; at the Grand River, 2 to 300.

To send the 49th or some other effective regiment to the Niagara frontier with a proportion of artillery.

To send a regiment to Kingston, together with a detachment of artillery.

To send an officer of rank to Kingston to take charge of that frontier.

It is proposed to select from the militia 2 companies from each regiment as flank companies, which will produce as volunteers about 1,800 men.

It is proposed to raise corps of volunteers, which may produce 1,200 men.

To lay up ships next winter at York and by degrees remove the naval yard.

To provide materials for ten more batteaux at Kingston and at Amherstburg.

To build one gun-boat, as an experiment, at Long Point.

To send plans of the Quebec boats to York. The gun to unship and lie in the hold in bad weather.

To fortify the harbor of Amherstburg. The co-operation of the N. West and S. West companies. To take the post of Michilimackinac and remove St. Josephs to it.

A small work to protect the anchorage of vessels at Long Point, and to have 6 gun-boats at Long Point if the plan succeeds.

The co-operation of the Indians will be attended with great expense in presents, provisions, &c.

To send a person from Kingston to reconnoitre Sackett's Harbor, and to send from Niagara to examine the harbors and country on the south shore of Lake Ontario to see what preparation and if among merchant vessels.

Captain Gilkinson at Prescott.

To enquire if he will take a naval command.

Captain Fish to command the new schooner to be built at York.

To superannuate Commodore Grant and to appoint Lieut. Hall senior officer.

Lieut. Barwis to command the new schooner.

2nd Lieut. Rolette to be appointed first and to command the *Hunter*.

To superannuate Commodore Steele and to appoint Captain Earle senior officer and to command the *Royal George*.

To appoint and to command the *Moira*.

To mount 6 24-pr. carronades on field carriages, to be used as occasion may require.

To send two companies of the Newfoundland Regiment to act as seamen and mariners.

To augment the establishment by sending an addition of 100 seamen to the lakes.

To purchase all the cordage from Capt. Mills at Amherstburg, as this tends greatly to promote the growth of hemp.

To submit the memo. from Lieuts. Dewar and Hall.

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 68.)

General John Armstrong to Hon. Wm. Eusti-, Secretary of War.

RED HOOK, January 2nd, 1812.

DEAR EUSTIS,—Yesterday's mail brought your hypothetical note, which I hasten to answer by a few suggestions that if approved may be readily drawn out into as much detail as may be useful.

1st. An abundant supply of what is technically called the *materiel* of war is indispensable. This single term includes arms, equipments, and ammunition in all their varieties, tents, blankets, and clothing, cavalry and draught horses, oxen, wagons, carts, entrenching tools, &c., &c. To make a competent provision of these will require a large expenditure of money, but to this you must submit for two unanswerable reasons—the one, that without them war cannot be made either morally or successfully: the other, that their cost now will be from 50 to 100 *per cent. less* than it will be *after the declaration of war*.

2d. When obtained, these supplies should be placed in magazines, the location of which must be governed by two considerations—the security of the articles deposited in them, and the facility and safety with which these may be brought into use. To each magazine should be attached a laboratory for fixing ammunition, making and mending gun and other carriages, repairing arms, &c.

3d. If you have remote posts liable to attack and difficult to sustain, and having no direct or important bearing on the progress

or issue of the war, hasten to dismantle them and withdraw the garrisons.

4th.—Resting, as the line of Canadian defence does, in its whole extent on navigable lakes and rivers, no time should be lost in getting a naval ascendency on both for *cœteris paribus* the belligerent who is the first to obtain this advantage will (miracles excepted) win the game. Whether the commercial craft at present employed on these waters can be made useful for the purpose, I do not know, but among the sages now assembled at Washington you cannot fail to find some one who can answer the question.

5th.—Without a knowledge, nearly approximating the truth, of the force you will have to contend with, of the disposition made of this, and of the character, physical and artificial, of the posts occupied by it, you will be compelled to make war *conjecturally* and of course on data furnishing no just conclusions with regard to either the number or composition of your own army, or of the kind and extent of operations which ought to be assigned to it. That a state of peace like the present will be more favorable than one of war for acquiring this preliminary information cannot be doubted, and if it be true, as I have been told, that the British posts are victualled by American contractors, these agents (who by their vocation must have free access to them) may probably form the safest and surest medium through which to obtain it. But whatever be the means employed for accomplishing this object, a moment should not be lost in putting them into exercise.

6th.—The number and composition of your army (as already suggested) should be decided by the service given it to perform and the kind and degree of resistance your enemy may be able to oppose to it. Though from present appearances it be true that the exigencies of the war in Europe will disable England from sending promptly any important aid strictly military to the Canadas, it does not follow that she will omit to employ such other means as she may possess to supply the deficiency. Of these the most vexatious to us would be a portion of her armed vessels acting separately or in squadron on our long and defenceless line of sea coast, while at the same time hordes of savages are let loose on the women and children of the West. And that in the event of war, Great Britain will not hesitate to employ this policy in both its branches, cannot be doubted by those who have any recollection of what her past conduct towards the United States has been, or who are now capable of perceiving the impunity to herself and the mischief to us with which she may pursue it.

From this general view of the subject, it follows that in composing your army you must be careful to provide corps specially

adapted for two purposes—the *protection of your own frontiers*, eastern and western, and the *invasion* of those of your enemy. Of each of these I offer the following outline :—

For the former, divide your coast into military districts—open in each a rendezous for *volunteer association* and *local defence*, with engagements commensurate with the war and pay enrolments such as are now given to the regular army. Of this description of force the maximum may be *twenty battalions*, located as follows :— One at Portsmouth, two at Boston, one at Newport, three at New York, one at Philadelphia, three at Baltimore, three at Norfolk, two at Charleston, one at Savannah and three at New Orleans. Each of these stations to be well supplied with heavy guns for position, furnaces for heating shot, light pieces well horsed for field service, and muskets and bayonets for camp and garrison duty. Corps thus constituted and equipped, well instructed in the use of their arms and respectably commanded, will do much to check, if they do not entirely prevent, predatory excursion, the evil most to be apprehended from the crews of single ships or from those of small squadrons not sustained by infantry.

For western defence employ western men accustomed to the rifle and the forest and not unacquainted with the usages and stratagems of Indian warfare. To their customary arms add a pistol and sabre, and, to ensure celerity, mount them on horse-back. Give them a competent leader and a good position within striking distance of Indian villages or British settlements. Why not at Detroit, where you have a strong fortress and a detachment of artillerists? Recollect, however, that this position, far from being good, would be positively bad unless your naval means have an ascendency on Lake Erie, because Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, and the two Sanduskys must be its base or source of supply. The maximum of this corps may be six battalions.

Lastly, for a successful invasion of the Canadas (the great operation of the war, because that only by which Great Britain can be brought to a sense of justice,) you must rely on a regular army. Of this description of force you have now the skeletons of ten regiments, which, if completed, will give you ten thousand combatants—a corps that in the present circumstances of England, and aided by militia for purposes of demonstration, will be competent to great achievements. Hasten then to fill up the rank and file of your present establishment, and to existing inducements for enlisting add an increased pay and a liberal bounty at the end of the war.

Should better information with regard to your enemy's strength make an increase of your own expedient, give one or two additional battalions to each of your seven regiments of infantry—a mode of

increasing an army much to be preferred to creations altogether new. For, besides being obviously more economical, the direct association of raw recruits with old soldiers has the effect of making the former efficient in half the time it would otherwise take to do so—the example of comrades being a principle of tuition much more active than the instruction of officers.

On this head it is but necessary to add that the whole of your disposable or field force when obtained should be immediately assembled at some point from which, the moment that war shall be authorized, it may begin its operations. Under present views Albany or its neighborhood should be the place of this rendezvous, because, besides other recommendations, it is *here* that all the roads leading from the central portion of the United States to the Canadas *diverge*, a circumstance which, while it keeps up your enemy's doubts as to your real point of attack cannot fail to keep his means of defence in a state of division.

7th.—In sketching the composition of an army, two branches of it, the one having charge of its discipline and its movement, the other of its subsistence, must not be forgotten. For the first (a General Staff) I refer you to Grimoard's publication, which I sent to the War Department from Paris some years ago. If this book be not already translated into English, no time should be lost in naturalizing it for the use of the army.

The second or feeding department is of three kinds—that founded on Cæsar's maxim that "war should sustain war," though fashionable at present, is in fact a system of indiscriminate plunder, forbidden alike, as I hope, by the moral feelings and political views of the United States. The remaining two are sufficiently known under the names of the contract and commissariat systems. To recommend either, as exclusively and under all circumstances the best, would show only great ignorance or great folly. In old and well-peopled districts where corn and cattle are abundant, prices little subject to change, roads safe and unobstructed, and the means of transportation (trains or boats) easily procured, the contract plan is the best—because the most economical, sufficiently punctual in the discharge of its engagements, and, from the settled character of its terms, rarely if ever embarrassing the Government with extra or unexpected charges. In districts of an opposite character, where the population is thin and poor, supplies scarce and high priced, roads few and bad and much exposed to obstruction, the commissariat must be submitted to, though certainly liable to great abuse from the ignorance, indolence, or knavery of the agents employed. The best remedy for the evils of this system will be found in

subjecting the agents to military law and in vigorously enforcing its provisions.

8th and lastly.—A project of campaign conformed to military maxims must embrace three things: 1st—*An object of important or decisive character*, the attainment of which will give a successful issue to the campaign, if not to the war. 2nd—*A line of operation* as short and perpendicular to the object as possible; and 3rd—*A well secured base*, on which must be accumulated and ready for transportation all supplies necessary to sustain the operation. Each of these rules has its own special laws, but it is only of the first that I will say more at present than a few words.

In invading a neighboring and independent territory like Canada, having a frontier of immense extent, destitute of means strictly its own for the purposes of defence, separated from the rest of the empire by an ocean, and having to this but one outlet—this *outlet forms your true object or point of attack*, because if gained, everything depending upon it is gained also. Such was the consequence of the capture of Quebec in the war which ended in 1763, and such would again be the capture of that capital had we the means to effect it. Unfortunately, from deficient foresight in the Government, these are wanting. Still, though unable to do what in the abstract would be best, it by no means follows that we should omit to do what may be both practicable and expedient. Such in my opinion would be the *capture of Montreal*—a post which, commanding alike the navigation of the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, if seized and held would give the same control over all that portion of the Canadas lying westward of itself that Quebec now exercises over the whole territory. Kingston, York, Fort George, Fort Erie and Malden, cut off from their common base must soon and necessarily fall. To reach this object your line of operation may be taken on either side of Lake Champlain, provided you have secured the command of the lake, in which case also Albany, Greenbush, Troy, Whitehall, &c., covered by a dense population or secured by a large river nowhere fordable by infantry, will give you a sufficient base. When begun the movement should be made rapidly and audaciously, and, the better to secure its success, three demonstrations by masses of militia may be employed: one on the Niagara to keep within their walls the garrisons of Fort George and Erie; a second at Sackett's Harbor, to produce a similar effect on whatever force may be found at Kingston, and a third in Vermont, so placed on the eastern side of the Sorel as to menace the British posts on that river.

Though taking for granted, as stated above, that the capture of Montreal would involve that of all posts westward from itself, it will no doubt be proper that the six battalions of mounted gun-men

should march on Malden as soon as they shall be apprised that the campaign on Lake Champlain is opened. And here we must stop, what remains of the subject being *tactical* and governed by circumstances as they occur in the camp or the field, must be entirely left to the genius and judgment of your commanding general.

(From Notices of the War of 1812 by John Armstrong, New York, 1840, Vol. I., pp. 234-41.)

Sir George Prevost to Thomas Barclay, His Majesty's Consul-General at New York.

QUEBEC, 4th January, 1812.

SIR,—Considering the spirit of hostility shown to England by the United States no longer likely to be confined to a paper and commercial warfare, and that, therefore, it is of importance I should receive a correct account of the disposition and news of the American Government, I have sent Captain Coore, one of my aids-de-camp, to Mr. Foster for the purpose, who is instructed to communicate with you as he passes through New York.

(From the Correspondence of Thomas Barclay, p. 302.)

Thomas Barclay to Sir George Prevost.

NEW YORK, 22d January, 1812.

SIR,—I agree with you that the period is fast approaching when these States will take active hostile measures against Great Britain, and it is apparent that their first military measures will be directed against His Majesty's Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada. I am satisfied also that attempts will be made to seduce the inhabitants of Upper Canada generally, and the French Canadians in Lower Canada, from their allegiance. You will pardon, therefore, the liberty I take in recommending the utmost attention in admitting persons within cities of these Provinces, as attempts will be made to introduce characters fitted to persuade and delude the ignorant. There is a man who lives on the line (45°) between these States and Lower Canada. Colonel Armstrong knows him; his name is Rous. Of him particular care should be taken and of those who have communications with him. He is a sensible, intriguing, cunning man, eminently qualified for such purposes and well acquainted with all the disaffected Canadians. His movements require special care.

(From the Correspondence of Thomas Barclay, p. 304.)

Captain A. Gray, Assistant Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Sir George Prevost.

York, 29th January, 1812.

Sir,—I arrived safe at this place on the evening of the 27th and delivered the money I was entrusted with to Mr. Selby. The weather has been extremely unfavorable, having been exceedingly cold or thawing, all the way from Montreal to York. From Montreal to Kingston occupied 6 days, and from Kingston to York 5 days.

On my arrival at Kingston, I inspected the state of the marine and have the honor to communicate the following particulars for Your Excellency's information:

The *Royal George* lays alongside the wharf, dismantled and her rigging laid up in the sail loft, and reported to be all in good order and in readiness to refit at the shortest notice. But it is a singular circumstance that they have as yet found no way of mounting the carronades sent up last summer to arm this and the other vessels on the lakes. This difficulty arises from the construction of the slide upon which the carronade is mounted. This is upon a new principle and is rather complicated, being of a nature not at all self-evident, as appears from the variety of opinions that prevail as to its object and utility. There ought therefore to have been a plan and description of the slide sent along with them. Major Fuller says in his justification that he has written to Quebec for information on this subject but received no answer. I shall remove this difficulty on my return to Kingston.

Little is done to the *Moira* further than preparing the materials, as they say they wanted orders from Quebec as to lengthening her. There has not, however, been much time lost, as the weather has been very severe. I found, upon examining the vessel, that it would not be advisable to lengthen her, as, notwithstanding the process of salting, many of the timbers are rotten and must be taken out, and what is at this moment of great importance, she could not be got ready in time if lengthened. One of the chief objects in lengthening her was to increase her battery, but this we can do to a certain extent without, as by new spacing the distance of the ports one gun may be added on each side. I have therefore ordered them to proceed immediately with the repairs, and have her ready to sail the moment the lake is open, which they have promised shall be done.

There is every inducement to build the new schooner at York, as, exclusive of the argument already adduced in favor of establishing the naval yard at this place, there are the following

considerations, which are of great importance at this moment: First, they have as much to do at Kingston as they can get through with at present in fitting out the *Moira* and mounting the carronades, etc. It would, therefore, extend our resources in ship building if we could at the same time carry on our work at both places. This would also have the effect of paving the way for the removal of the Marine Depot from Kingston to this place, a change greatly to be desired. The *Toronto*, having been broken up here, furnishes an immediate supply of iron work and a variety of other articles that may be worked up in the new vessel, and, in addition to what may be supplied by this means, there is a considerable department of naval stores appropriated to what is termed the civil service of the Province. This store General Brock will use as the service may require. I have gone round the harbor with the General and have examined as far as the season of the year would admit of, the different places pointed out as favorable for building a vessel, and find there will be no difficulty on that head. The General proposes putting the superintendence of the work into the hands of the person who commanded the *Toronto*, who seems to be every way qualified for the task of building and commanding the new schooner.

The officers serving in this division of the Province are in some instances extremely inefficient, and, in short, totally unfit for the situations they hold, especially the deputy-assistant quartermaster-general, and several naval officers. The former Gen. Brock has it in contemplation to remove to York as soon as Your Excellency has fixed upon a proper person to succeed him. This arrangement will be advantageous to Major Fuller, a circumstance which is not to be regretted, as there is nothing to be urged against him but his incapacity and unfitness for the situation he has been unfortunately placed in. The general has no officer here that he can recommend for the situation. Nor does he know of more than one man in the Lower Province that he thinks fit for it. The gent[lema]n the General mentions is Captain King of the artillery, and from what I have heard of his professional character and ability from other sources, I most readily unite with the General in recommending him as a fit person to succeed Major Fuller. If this measure meets Your Excellency's approbation, the sooner the appointment is made the better, as there is great need of *a man of energy and one who can be trusted at Kingston.*

This subject I shall have the honor of explaining more at large on my return.

Captain Steel, senior naval officer, has sent in his resignation, praying to retire on full pay, which I hope may be granted him, as he has been almost half a century in the service and is now in his

seventy-fifth year. The next in rank to Captain Steel is Lieut. Earle, commander of the *Moira*, who is an excellent seaman, and from all I can learn every way fit to succeed Captain Steel.

I speak from my own experience, as well as from the opinion entertained of him by General Brock and others who have sailed with him.

General Brock is likewise anxious to get rid of the old Commodore on Lake Erie. This gentleman has likewise been above 50 years in the service, and is 85 years of age. The next in seniority is Lieut. Hall, who is in every respect a proper person to succeed Captain Grant. I have had the same opportunities of attaining a knowledge of his character and abilities and talents that I had of Lieut. Earle, and consider him in all respects equally deserving promotion.

These arrangements, should they meet Your Excellency's approbation, General Brock conceives will enable him to accomplish every object connected with the department, as far as those individuals are concerned, as he has a favorable opinion of Lieut. Dewar, and thinks he will meet with support equal to his wishes on both lakes.

I have communicated to General Brock an extract from the letter I had the honor to write Your Excellency from Montreal relative to the promotion and the protection of the trade of the N. West and S. West companies. The General most perfectly concurs in the ideas submitted in that letter, and has directed me to communicate to you his anxious wish that the post [at] St. Joseph might be removed tc the Falls of St. Mary. In short, the General's general policy and plan of defence agrees so exactly with the ideas I had formed previously to my communicating with him that I can be at no loss in giving Your Excellency every information on that head on my return. It may not therefore be necessary to enter more into objects at present. I propose remaining here till after the House of Assembly has met, which will be about a week from this day.

I am induced to make this stay in order that I may obtain more accurate information on several points connected with our defences, etc., as more of information will then be collected from all parts of the country. I shall also have an opportunity of seeing how they go on. I do not imagine my stay at Kingston need exceed 3 or 4 days, as by building the schooner here the business of the department at the station is considerably diminished.

I have also the hope of meeting Lieut. Dewar before my departure from here, as he has obtained leave to come to York. This will afford me the opportunity of giving him more ample

instructions as to the duties of the department than I could by letter. There is likewise some interesting information received respecting Detroit, which he and Col. Elliot, who is also expected, will be enabled to confirm.

It seems the Americans are collecting a vast quantity of ordnance at that post, which, with other indications, pretty clearly manifests their intentions in that quarter.

The grant of land to the Glengarry Regt. is a subject upon which General Brock intends to write you, as he fears this measure will create embarrassment and a precedent which cannot be followed up for want of lands to grant, and if not followed, there will not be a man got for the service in future.

The general has an idea that a corps upon the principles contained in the sketch I brought him might easily be procured for the defence of our frontiers without any expectation of land being held out to them, and upon the whole he thinks it a bad precedent and likely to produce discontent. The Genl. intends writing to Your Excellency. He, however, wishes me to mention the circumstances, which I accordingly do without presuming to give an opinion.

I have directed the Kingston paper to be regularly sent to the castle. Mr. Cartwright, of that place, is a striking character. This gent[lema]n has by every means in his power promoted the prosperity of the country, and has on all occasions stepped forward in support of the Gov[ernmen]t. He intends publishing a series of letters in the Kingston paper. The signature, *Falkland.*

We intend to let fly a drive official at them in the next *York Gazette*, as the Genrl. thinks it may have a good effect on both sides. We have got a detailed account from the Prophet's Camp. He has gained a glorious victory. His loss is 25 men, and his No. (number) actually engaged did not exceed 100.

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 77.)

Major General Brock to Colonel Baynes.

York, February 12, 1812.

Sir,—I received yesterday your letter dated the 16th and 23rd ult. My attention was so much occupied with my civil duties during the stay of Captain Gray at York that some military points escaped consideration, and I shall now advert to them. As no mention is made of withdrawing the 41st from this Province, I consider the proposed movement of the 49th as intended to give me an accession of strength, and the apprehension occasioned by Captain Gray's report to the contrary is consequently dispelled. The assurance which I gave in my speech at the opening of the Legislature,

of England co-operating in the defence of this Province, has infused the utmost confidence, and I have reason, at this moment, to look for the acquiescence of the two houses to every measure I may think necessary to recommend for the peace and defence of the country. A spirit has manifested itself little expected by those who conceived themselves best qualified to judge of the disposition of the members of the House of the Assembly. The most powerful opponents to Governor Gore's administration take the lead on the present occasion. I, of course, do not think it expedient to damp the ardor displayed by these once doubtful characters. Some opposed Mr. Gore, evidently from personal motives, but never forfeited the right of being numbered among the most loyal. Few, very few, I believe, were actuated by base or unworthy considerations, however mistaken they may have been on various occasions. Their character will very soon be put to a severe test. The measures which I intend to propose are:

1.—A militia supplementary act. Sir George will hear the outlines from Captain Gray.

2.—The suspension of the Habeas Corpus—a copy of the act now enforced in the Lower Province.

3.—An alien law.

4.—The offer of a reward for the better apprehension of deserters.

If I succeed in all this, I shall claim some praise, but I am not without my fears. I shall send you the militia act the moment it passes into a law. The more I consider the new provisions, the more I am satisfied (giving, of course, every proper allowance to the disposition of the people,) they are peculiarly calculated to meet the local situation of the country. I have not a musket more than will suffice to arm the active part of the militia from Kingston westward. I have therefore to request that the number of arms may be sent according to the enclosed requisition to the places therein specified on the communication, between Glengarry and Kingston. Every man capable of bearing a musket along the whole of that line ought to be prepared to act. The members of the Assembly from that part of the country are particularly anxious that some works may be thrown up as a rallying point and place of security for stores, &c., in the vicinity of Johnstown. I shall request Colonel Macdonell to examine on his return the ground which those gentlemen recommend as the best suited for that purpose. Being immediately opposite Oswegatchie, some precaution of the sort is indispensable, were it only to preserve a free communication between the two provinces. I have been made to expect the able assistance of Captain Marlow. Should he be still at Quebec, have the goodness

to direct his attention on his way up to that quarter. He had better consult Colonel Fraser and Captain Gilkinson, men of sound judgment and well acquainted with the country. The militia will have, of course, to be employed on the works.

I must still press the necessity of an active, enterprising, intelligent commander being stationed on that important line of communication. I wish Colonel Ellice were here to undertake the arduous task, as it is wholly impossible that I can do so. Every assistance in my civil capacity I shall always be ready to give, and to that point my exertions must necessarily be limited. Niagara and Amherstburg will sufficiently occupy my attention. I deliver my sentiments freely, believing they will not be the less acceptable.

I discussed every point connected with Amherstburg so completely with Captain Gray that I do not find anything very essential was omitted. Colonel Macdonnel will be able probably to give us further insight as to the actual state of affairs there. He was to make every inquiry, and, as far as he was permitted to judge himself of the relative strength of Detroit. Lieut.-Colonel St. George preceded him by some days, but in such a state of mind that forbids my placing any dependence on his exertions. When I first mentioned my intention of sending him to Amherstburg he seemed diffident of his abilities, but pleased at the distinction. However, when he received his final instructions, his conduct in the presence of some officers was so very improper, and otherwise so childish, that I have since written to say that if he continued in the same disposition he was at liberty to return to Niagara; I did not order him directly back, because at this time I consider an officer of rank necessary at Amherstburg, particularly during the absence of Messrs. Elliott and Baby, who are both attending their parliamentary duties. You will imagine, after what I have stated, that it is the influence of his rank that I alone covet, and not his personal aid. He has very fortunately given timely proof that he is in no way ambitious of military command, therefore unfit for so important a command. Should it please His Excellency to place the 41st and 49th at my disposal, I propose sending the former regiment to Amherstburg, as we cannot be too strong in that quarter. I have already explained myself on that point, and Captain Gray is furnished with further arguments in support of the measure.

I have delayed to the last the mention of a project which I consider of the utmost consequence in the event of hostilities. I set out with declaring my full conviction that, unless Detroit and Michilimackinac be both in our possession immediately at the commencement of hostilities, not only the district of Amherstburg, but most probably the whole country as far as Kingston, must be

evacuated. How necessary therefore to provide effectually the means of their capture. From Amherstburg it will be impossible to send a force to reduce Michilimackinac; unless we occupy completely both banks no vessel could pass the River St. Clair. What I therefore presume to suggest for His Excellency's consideration is the adoption of a project which Sir James Craig contemplated three years ago. The North-west Company undertook to transport 50 or 60 men up the Ottawa, and I make no doubt would engage again to perform the same service. If therefore a war be likely to occur at the time the canoes start from Montreal, I should recommend 40 or 50 of the 49th light company and a small detachment of artillery embarking at the same time for St. Joseph's. Should hostilities commence, the North-west Company would not object to join their strength in reduction of Michilimackinac, and should peace succeed the present wrangling the 49th detachment could be easily removed to Amherstburg.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 147-150.)

Fourth Session of the Fifth Provincial Parliament

Met at York on the third day of February and prorogued on the sixth day of March following in the fifty-second year of the reign of George III.

ISAAC BROCK, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT,

Anno Domini 1812.

CHAPTER III.

An Act to extend the provisions of an Act passed in the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act of Parliament the several laws now in, being for the raising and training the militia of this Province."

(Expired 1813.)

Fourth Session of Fifth Provincial Parliament.

CHAPTER VI.

An Act for granting to His Majesty a sum of money for the use of the militia of this Province. [Temporary—£5,000 to be applied in defraying the expense of training and exercising the militia in such manner as the governor, lieutenant-governor or person administering the Government of the Province shall direct.]

Major-General Brock to Noah Freer.

YORK, February 12, 1812.

SIR,—I have directed the Assistant Deputy Commissary-General at Amherstburg to purchase 2,000 bushels of Indian corn.

Corn will be absolutely necessary in the event of war, and should peace follow the existing discussions the Indians will gladly receive it in lieu of other food. It is to be procured, if possible, on the American side, that our own stock may remain undiminished. Several agents have already arrived from the Lower Province and made large purchases of flour; if therefore our contracts are not soon concluded we shall be at the mercy of these gentlemen. I have not considered myself justified in interfering in the business of the commissariat. I have been informed very lately that my account has been charged with £20 for my portion of the expense of a canoe employed in taking Governor Gore and myself to York; perhaps His Excellency may consider this a fair public charge.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 151-2.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Wednesday, February 19, 1812.)

We are sorry to state that the valuable mills of John Fanning, Esquire, of Chippawa, were destroyed by fire on Sunday evening last.

Governor Tompkins to General Porter.

ALBANY, 29th February, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—The enclosed letter is from Judge Ostrom of Utica, who wishes an appointment in the army. He was formerly a decided Federalist and represented Oneida County in the Assembly for several years. But disappointment in 1810, and disgust with the Federal party since, have caused him to avow himself a Republican for upwards of a year past. He is well qualified for a majority in the army, and I can recommend him cheerfully for that appointment. Senator Bloodgood has given me the preceding account of his politics. He considers him a Republican and well qualified for the army.

I presume you are acquainted with Judge Ostrom, for which reason, and also because I understand it has been referred to the members of this State to select a list of officers which it is to furnish for the new army, I have ventured to trouble you with this business.

By a list, which it is understood is before the Secretary of War, I learn that the names of *Benjamin Walker, William North, Samuel A. Barker, Aquila Giles* and *Solomon Van Rensselaer* are presented for the first grades of command which will be allowed to this State. Our Republicans will illy brook it that the command of an army in a contest with Great Britain should be entrusted to such men.

(MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

York, U. C., February 25th, 1812.

Sir,—I cannot permit Colonel Macdonell to go hence without giving Your Excellency a short account of our proceedings here. I had every reason to expect the almost unanimous support of the two branches of the Legislature to every measure Government thought necessary to recommend, but after a short trial found myself egregiously mistaken in my calculations.

The many doubtful characters in the militia made me very anxious to introduce the oath of aligenation into the bill. There were twenty members present when this highly important measure was lost by the casting voice of the chairman. The great influence which the fear and number of settlers from the United States possess over the decisions of the Lower House is truly alarming, and ought by every practical means to be diminished.

To give encouragement to real subjects to settle in this Province can alone remove the evil. The consideration of the fees ought not to stand in the way of such a politic arrangement.

And should Your Excellency ultimately determine to promise some of the waste lands of the Crown to such Scotch emigrants as enlist in the Glengarry Regiment, I have no hesitation in recommending in the strongest manner the raising of a Canadian corps upon similar offers, to be hereafter disbanded and distributed among their countrymen in the vicinity of Amherstburg. Colonel Macdonell being in full possession of my sentiments on this subject, I beg leave to refer Your Excellency to him for further information.

The bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus, I regret to say, was likewise lost, by a very trifling majority. A strong sentiment now prevails that war is not likely to occur with the United States, which I believe tended to influence the votes of the members —I mean of such who, tho' honest, are by their ignorance easily betrayed into error.

The low ebb of their finances appears to stagger the most desperate Democrats in the States, and may possibly delay the commencement of hostilities. But should France and England continue the contest much longer, it appears to me absolutely impossible for the United States to avoid making this election, and the unfriendly disposition they have for some years evinced against England leaves little doubt as to their choice. Your Excellency, I am sensible, will excuse the freedom with which I deliver my sentiments.

Every day hostilities are retarded the greater the difficulties we shall have to encounter. The Americans are at this moment busily engaged in raising six companies of rangers for the express purpose

of overawing the Indians, and are besides collecting a regular force at Vincennes, probably with the view of reinforcing Detroit; indeed report states the arrival of a large force at Fort Wayne, intended for the former garrison. Their intrigues among the different tribes are carried on openly and with the utmost activity, and as no expense is spared it may reasonably be supposed that they do not fail of success. Divisions are thus uninterruptedly sowed among our Indian friends and the minds of many estranged from our interests. Such must inevitably be the consequence of our present inert and neutral proceedings in regard to them.

It ill becomes me to determine how long true policy requires that the restrictions now imposed upon the Indian Department ought to continue, but this I will venture to assert that each day the officers are restrained from interfering in the concerns of the Indians, each time they advise peace and withhold the accustomed supply of ammunition, their influence will diminish, till at length they lose it altogether. It will then become a question whether that country can be maintained.

I find that ever since the departure of Priest Burk from Sandwich the £50 per annum paid from the military chest to that gentleman has been withheld, on what account I have not been able to ascertain. The person now in office is highly spoken of, and as several gentlemen of the Catholic persuasion have applied to me to intercede with Your Excellency to renew the allowance, I presume to submit the case to your indulgent consideration.

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 92.)

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

York, March 9, 1812.

Sir,—As the transactions which have occurred in the House of Assembly in regard to the Chief Justice may be represented at Quebec in a manner to excite wrong impressions, I deem it proper to furnish Your Excellency with a summary of the whole business.

The inordinate power assumed by the House of Assembly is truly alarming, and ought to be resisted, otherwise the most tyrannical system will assuredly be pursued by men who suffer themselves to be led by a desperate faction that stop at nothing to gratify their personal resentment.

Mr. Nichol is a gentleman of education, and who in the district in which he resides has done essential good in opposing the democratic measures of a Mr. Willcocks and his vile coadjutors. The palpable injustice committed against his person by dragging him at midnight, without any previous warning, one hundred miles, from

his home to the bar of the House, and then committing him to gaol under the most frivolous pretenses, has greatly alarmed the most thinking part of the community. Efforts are to be made by several respectable characters to get into the next Assembly, but such is the spirit which unfortunately prevails that I much fear they will be foiled in their attempt. I was inclined to dismiss the House before the members passed such harsh resolutions against the Chief Justice, but his friends recommended that they should be allowed to proceed without interruption.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 156-7.)

Colonel Baynes to Major General Brock.

QUEBEC, March 10, 1812.

SIR,—I regret to find by your late letters to Sir George Prevost that your expectations from your Legislature have not been realized to the extent of your well grounded hopes. Sir George, who is well versed in the fickle and intractable disposition of public assemblies, feels more regret than disappointment. He has a very delicate card to play with his House of Assembly here, who would fain keep up the farce of being highly charmed and delighted with his amiable disposition and affable manners. They have even gone the length of asserting that these traits in his character have afforded them the most entire confidence that in his hands the Alien Act would not be abused. They have, however, taken the precaution of stripping it of its very essence and spirit, while last year they passed it without a division, when Sir James [Craig,] on whose mild and affable disposition they did not pretend to rely, told them that it could only alarm such as were conscious of harboring seditious designs. They have passed an amendment to the militia bill which, though not affording all that was required, is still a material point gained : 2000 men are to be balloted to serve for three months in two successive summers. One of their strongest objections was the apprehension of the Canadians contracting military habits and enlisting into the service.

Sir George has directed me to inform you that he will be ready to render you any assistance in his power to strengthen the Upper Province, but that unless reinforcements arrive from England, (in which case you may depend upon having a due proportion put under your immediate command) his means of doing so are very limited. His Excellency is not sanguine in his expectations of receiving reinforcements this summer; on the contrary, the appearance of hostilities beginning to abate at Washington, and the pledge held out in the Prince Regent's speech, of supporting with energy the

contest in Spain and Portugal, are likely to prevent more troops being seen in this quarter unless a more urgent necessity of doing so should appear. I will not comment on American politics, in which we all appear to agree, that the deep-rooted jealousy and hatred of that people must in the end lead to hostilities, and that it behooves us not to lose sight of an event which if not prepared to meet we shall find more difficult to repel. Under this impression, Sir George is disposed to promote the several plans you have recommended to him relating to the general line of conduct you would wish to adopt in defence of the important Province committed to your charge. If no additional force be sent out he will send up the strong detachment of the 41st, composed of uncommonly fine young men and in very good order. The General has it also in view to send you a strong detachment of the Newfoundland regiment, selecting their seamen and marine artificers who will be most useful in the proposed works to be carried on at York, and here I am apprehensive that the means of augmenting your strength must be bounded unless the Glengarry levy can be rapidly formed; and Sir George is sanguine in his expectations of its being speedily placed upon a respectable footing; in that case it could occupy Kingston and that line of communication between the Provinces which you deem so essential to be guarded. This corps will have the very great advantage of starting with a better selected body of officers of any Fencible regiment in Canada. I hope you will feel inclined to bring forward Shaw as one of your captains, as without your countenance I fear he will find it an arduous task to provide for himself and his brother. The uniform of the corps is to be green, like that of the 95th Rifles.

Sir George expressed himself very sensible of the policy of the line of conduct you would wish to pursue respecting the Indians, but as other considerations of the greatest political delicacy are so minutely interwoven with them, and as the American government are already inclined to view every transaction with those people with a jealous and suspicious eye, he would recommend the utmost caution and forbearance, lest a different line of conduct might tend to increase the irritation between the two governments, which it is evidently the wish of Great Britain to allay.

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(From Tupper's Life of Brock, p. 159.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Wednesday, March 11, 1812.)

What does it mean? By a law of Upper Canada lately passed the militia of that Province are to turn out and drill six days in every month.

General Order.

Headquarters, April 2d, 1812.

The Commander-in-Chief is required by the President of the United States to order into service for the defence and protection of the frontiers of the State detachments of the militia thereof, to be stationed at Niagara, Oswego and near the mouth of the Black River. Major-General Widrig will, therefore, without delay, detach from his division (excluding the Onondaga brigade) six hundred men, including officers, and will organize them into eight companies, will assign the captains and subalterns, and will have them ready to march at a moment's warning.

He will also report to the Commander-in-Chief one lieutenant colonel and two majors whom he can recommend to be assigned to the command of the detachment. Should any company of artillery or part thereof exceeding thirty men, uniformed and equipped, volunteer their services they will be accepted and organized as part of the above mentioned detachment and will be equipped with field pieces, implements and ammunition by the State. The above mentioned detachment will be stationed near the mouth of the Black River. Major-General Widrig will also require Brigadier-General Ellis to furnish from his brigade, and have in readiness to march to Oswego at a moment's warning, two companies of infantry, or one company of artillery of not less than forty men and one company of infantry of one hundred men, including officers: the latter to have one captain, two lieutenants and one ensign, or if there be two companies of infantry of the ordinary number, then each company to have one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign, to be assigned by General Ellis. The places of rendezvous for the detachments from each brigade are to be fixed by the respective Brigadier-Generals and reported to the respective Major-Generals.

Major-General King will detach from the Madison and Cortlandt brigades of infantry two hundred and fifty men, to be in readiness to march to Oswego whenever orders to that effect may be received, and to organize them into three companies, with one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign to each company. The detachments from Onondaga, Madison and Cortland Counties will, upon their arrival at Oswego, be formed into one corps, to be commanded by a field officer whom the Commander-in-Chief will assign for that purpose.

Major General Hall will forthwith detach from the Seventh division of infantry under his command six hundred men, including officers, and will organize them into eight companies and assign captains and subalterns to command the companies. The detach-

ment from his division will be directed to rendezvous in such parcels and at such places as he shall designate, and will from thence proceed to the post of Niagara. Lieut.-Col. Philetus Swift will take command of the detachment from the Seventh division. The commandant of the Genesee brigade will detach one major, and the commandant of Niagara brigade one other major, who, together with Lieut.-Col. Swift, will compose the field officers of the detachment. The regimental staff will be selected by the commandant of the detachment and be reported to the Major-General.

The officers who are charged with the execution of this general order are instructed to be prompt and vigilant in its execution and to encourage by all lawful means volunteers for the detachment. The Commander-in-Chief cherishes a lively hope that the patriotic and brave spirit which pervades the divisions from which the above detachments are to be taken will immediately fill the required quota with volunteers.

Volunteers under and pursuant to the Act of Congress of the 6th of February, authorizing the President to accept the services of volunteers, will be preferred, and the general and field officers will accept such volunteers accordingly as part of the detachments.

By order of the Commander in Chief.

ANTHONY LAMB, Aid-de-Camp.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

Governor Tompkins to Colonel Philetus Swift.

ALBANY, 2d April, 1812.

DR. SIR,—Perhaps you did not expect the evening that you left Albany that I should so soon have occasion to accept the offer of your services. The enclosed papers will make you acquainted with the proceedings which I have been directed by the President to pursue in relation to the detachment of the militia. You may consider yourself in service from the day of the receipt of this letter, and will consult with General Hall and exert yourself to get volunteers or others enrolled and ready to march whenever ordered, which will be the moment the contractors arrive and proceed westward to supply provisions, which will be in a day or two.

You are at liberty when the detachment shall be ordered to rendezvous to call on the keepers of the arsenals at Canandaigua and Batavia for arms and ammunition to supply such of the volunteers and others as may be deficient, and to show the keepers this letter as evidence of your authority so to do. You will receipt to them whatever they may deliver.

Col. Burnet is appointed Brigadier-General, which will satisfy him why he was not assigned to the command of Lt. Col'cy; Major

Reddington is appointed Lt.-Col. in the stead of Col. Stanley, resigned. I will, if possible, send their commissions by the messenger whom I have employed to convey the General Orders and other papers to the respective officers.

P. S.—I should think Major Gansen or Major Sutherland of Genesee would be a good appointment for that county.

I have this moment received a line from the War Department, saying that volunteers under the Act of the 6th of February last, authorizing the President to accept volunteers, would be preferred. If I do not procure a copy of that Act to transmit by this conveyance I will forward it speedily by mail.

I have procured a copy and have had it printed with a caption for volunteering. I am in hopes you and the majors can obtain volunteers sufficient for the detachment, and therefore send you several copies.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

Governor Tompkins to Lieut.-Col. George Fleming.

(Undated.)

(2nd April, 1812 ?)

Sir,—I had recommended to the committee on the defence of the frontiers to provide amongst other things for the appointment of a Commissary of Military Stores for the Western District, with a salary of 750 or 1000 Doll's. They unanimously agreed to that among other things and reported a bill accordingly, which was kept back, perhaps designedly, until I found it my duty to prorogue the Legislature. The bill will undoubtedly pass in May, when it is my intention, if the Council approve it and you consent, to avail the State of your experience and knowledge in military science.

In the meantime I am desirous of availing the State of your usefulness in another way. I have received a requisition from the President to detach and station at Niagara, Oswego and the mouth of Black River portions of the militia. The number to be stationed at Oswego will consist of 400, among whom may be one company of artillery. I am desirous that you should take the command of the last mentioned detachment, and for that purpose have enclosed you an appointment as my aid, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Should this appointment and the consequent command meet your acceptance, you may consider yourself in service from the receipt of this letter, and may visit and make the necessary arrangements with Genl. Ellis of Onondaga Hollow, Genl. Knapp of Cortlandt County, and Genl. Hurd of Cazenovia, from whose brigades the Oswego detachment is to be taken.

Should you accept this command you will please to advise me of your steps and of the places at which communications from the Adjutant Genl., from the contractor for provisions, or from myself, will reach you.

A copy of the President's requisition, of my Genl. Order thereon, and of my letters to Major-Genls. King and Widrig, within whose division the three above mentioned brigades are situated, are enclosed for your information.

My General Orders refer to a commandant of the Oswego detachment to be assigned by me. You may shew the respective generals your commission and this letter as evidence of your being authorized and assigned as such commandant.

P. S.—I am just advised by the Secretary of War that volunteers under the Act passed 6th Feby. last will be preferred. I will send a copy of that Act by the first opportunity, if I do not get it in season to accompany this letter. Those of the detachment who may not be equipped and supplied with muskets, &c., from the Onondaga arsenal, you will give your receipt for what is received there and shew this letter as your authority for requiring them.

The Act and caption for volunteering are enclosed. The inducements contained in the Act, together with the consideration that young men who acquire a little knowledge of tactics will probably be selected to officer the army, will, I hope, produce a sufficient number of volunteers. Their tour of duty will not probably be arduous nor exceed two months.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 3rd April, 1812.

No. 37.

MY LORD,—Before Your Lordship receives this you will have learned Henry's treachery. From Mr. Henry's residence in this country, his religion, his thorough acquaintance with the Canadian character and language, and above all his deep resentment against its government. Bonaparte may give him a favorable reception with a view of keeping his talents in reserve. I think the next measure of hostility Mr. Madison will practice will be to cause a declaration of war to be laid upon the tables of Congress. I have therefore addressed the general officers commanding in the Provinces, recommending the utmost caution and prudence in their intercourse with the United States. I enclose an extract from my letter to Major General Brock, that to Sir John Sherbrooke contains the same except as respects the fort of Detroit.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 181.)

Extract of a Letter from Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock, dated at Quebec, 31st March, 1812.

I have carefully examined Lieutenant Colonel Macdonnel's report on the American fort at Detroit, written at your desire, from information he had received during a residence of a few days in the vicinity. Whatever temptations may offer to induce you to depart from a system strictly defensive, I must pointedly request that, under the existing circumstances of our relations with the Government of the United States, you will not allow them to lead you into any measure bearing the character of offence, even should a declaration of war be laid on the table of Congress by the President's influence, because I am informed by our Minister at Washington there prevails throughout the United States a great unwillingness to enter upon hostilities, and also because the apparent neglect at Detroit might be but a *bait* to tempt us to an act of aggression, in its effects uniting parties, strengthening the power of the Government of that country, and affording that assistance to the raising of men for the augmentation of the American army without which their ability to raise one additional regiment is now questioned. You are, nevertheless, to persevere in your preparations for defence, and in such arrangements as may, upon a change in affairs, enable you to carry any disposable part of your force against the common enemy.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 183.)

Major-General Brock to Lieut.-Col. Robert Nichol, Commanding 2d Regiment Norfolk Militia.

York, April 8, 1812.

Sir,—The power which is vested in the person administering the Government by the amended Act of the militia, passed the last session of the Provincial Parliament, of forming two flank companies to be taken indiscriminately from the battalions, being limited to the end of the ensuing session, would almost deter me from incurring public expense upon a system which will cease to operate before its utility and efficiency can well be ascertained.

But, being anxious at this important crisis to organize an armed force with a view of meeting future exigencies, and to demonstrate by practical experience the degree of facility with which the militia may be trained for service, I have to request you to adopt immediate measures for forming and completing among such men as voluntarily offer to serve, two companies, not to exceed one captain, two subalterns, two sergeants, one drummer and thirty-five rank and file, each in the regiment under your command.

You will have the goodness to recommend two captains whom you conceive the best qualified to undertake this important duty; the nominating of subalterns is left to your discretion.

Such other regiments as are conveniently situated to receive military instruction shall have an opportunity afforded them of shewing their ardor in the public service, which cannot fail of creating a laudable emulation among the different corps.

Assisted by your zeal, prudence and intelligence, I entertain the pleasing hope of meeting with very considerable success, and of being able to establish the sound policy of rendering permanent to the end of the present war a mode of military instruction little burdensome to individuals and every way calculated to secure a powerful internal defence against hostile aggression.

Printed rules and regulations for your future guidance are herewith forwarded. The most simple and at the same time the most useful movements have been selected for the practice of the militia.

Experience has shown the absolute necessity of adopting every possible precaution to preserve in a proper state the arms issued to the militia, and of guarding against the heavy defalcations which have heretofore occurred.

You will make application to the officer commanding at Fort Erie for the number of arms and accoutrements wanting to complete the men actually engaged to serve in the flank companies, and that officer will be instructed to comply with your requisition upon your transmitting to him duplicate receipts, one of which is to be forwarded to headquarters, that you become responsible for the articles delivered to your order. At the same time the most liberal construction will be given to any representation accounting for such contingencies as are incidental to the service.

(From Life and Correspondence of Major General Sir Isaac Brock by Ferdinand Brock Tupper, London, 1847, p. 163.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 14th April, 1812.

No. 38.

MY LORD,—Considering a naval force properly constructed the most efficient and cheapest mode of defence, I have gradually increased the naval force on the lakes, and I have ordered five companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to proceed to Upper Canada as soon as the season will permit, to be employed afloat, being men accustomed to boats and vessels.

I am convinced that Kingston is a very exposed and unfit situation for our vessels to winter, and I propose the removal of the naval establishment by degrees to York. . . . . .

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(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 194.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 20th April, 1812.

No. 40.

MY LORD,—

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The recent passing of an Embargo Act in Congress, the orders issued for the march of 1,600 men to reinforce the American positions on Lakes Erie and Ontario and the River St. Lawrence indicate an inevitable disposition for hostilities, which have induced me to accept the services of 500 Canadian youth, to be formed into a corps of light infantry or voltigeurs. . . . . .

As soon as the organization of the militia is *en train*, I propose visiting Upper Canada to concert with Major-General Brock a general plan of offensive and defensive operations in the event of the democratic spirit of the United States having put the dispute beyond the bounds of accommodation. . . . . .

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 214.)

Mr. Augustus J. Foster, His Majesty's Minister at Washington, to Lord Castlereagh.

WASHINGTON, April 21st, 1812.

No. 25.

MY LORD,—I have received Your Lordship's despatch No. 1, that I should make diligent inquiries into the actual military establishment of the United States in the different arms, and transmit such plans of the forts, military posts, &c., as I could secure. I expect to be able to forward a complete statement by the May packet.

The militia in the northern, and particularly in the eastern States, are well trained and armed. The General, who has been lately appointed Commander-in-Chief, (Dearborn), is a heavy unwieldy-looking man, who was a major in the American war and was a prisoner in Canada. He has apparently accepted his appointment with great reluctance, having hesitated till within a few days. His military reputation does not stand very high, nor does that of Mr. Thomas Pinckney, the second Major General.

General Dearborn and his Aid-de-Camp, Mr. Melvin, who was

a banker in Paris, and when nominated as a Deputy Commissary was not confirmed in the Senate on account of the badness of his character, have left this city for Albany to superintend the preparations in that quarter, where 1600 militia have been ordered out, 500 to be stationed at Niagara, 500 nearly opposite Kingston, and 600 at Champlain. It was reported that Governor Hull would succeed Mr. Eustis as Secretary of War, but he has been made a brigadier-general and proceeded to his Government, where his first object will be to withdraw to Detroit a remote garrison of 60 men stationed on the southern shore of Lake Michigan [at Chicago] and are said to be in great danger of being dislodged by the Indians. Mr. Lewis is confirmed as Quartermaster-General. He is son-in-law of Mr. Livingstone, formerly Minister to France, and was himself once Governor of New York and possesses considerable popularity in the State.

There is a cannon foundry near here, from which 100 cannon have been lately sent to New York, many of them cast-iron. They have 50 more now on hand. I am told that a quantity of harness for upwards 1,000 horses is making expedition to New York, and that considerable supplies are daily sending to Albany, the contractors having shipped for that place every barrel of beef and pork in the market.

Colonel Porter has obtained for his brother the contract for supplying the troops, which, it is said, will be very profitable to him. Colonel Porter, who was said to be very much against the war measures towards the third month of the session, and was considered as having abandoned Mr. Madison's party for that of Mr. Clinton, is now said to have changed his line of policy once more. He is absent from Congress, and is now reported to be endeavoring to save Mr. Madison's influence in the northern part of the State.

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(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 265.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, April 21, 1812.)

A Speck of War.

To the Editors of the Buffalo Gazette:

GENTLEMEN,—To prevent the erroneous impression which exaggerated reports may have in the public mind relative to an unauthorized circumstance which took place yesterday, we enclose

the correspondence on the subject, and request you will have the goodness to insert it in your first *Gazette* published after the receipt hereof.

We are, &c.,
THOS. DICKSON,
R. GRANT,
JAMES KERBY.

Messrs. Salisburys, Buffalo.

Messrs. Thomas Dickson, R. Grant, James Kerby, William Robertson:

GENTLEMEN,—The inhabitants of this part of the country have thought advisable to meet together to make some preparation against attacks of Indians or vagabonds that may take place (which we have reason to believe we have sufficient grounds for so doing.) While in the peaceable manner we were doing our business without any intention of insult or menace to any person or persons on your side, some bad disposed man or men discharged three musket shots from the door of John Smith in your village, no doubt with a view to insult our people, one of which balls struck within eighteen inches of a person here.

We think this highly improper at this time, and presume any good man on your side will think with us, and that you will take every measure to prevent the like again, as, if repeated, the fire will certainly be returned, and we know not where it will end.

We remain, &c.,
BENJAMIN BARTON,
RUFUS SPALDING,
JOSHUA FAIRBANKS.

Lewiston, April 17, 1812.

QUEENSTON, 18th April, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,—We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and regret that the conduct of an inconsiderate boy at this place in firing across the river should have caused an uneasiness or drawn from you (previous to any communication with us as to our knowledge of the circumstance) the intimation that if repeated "the fire will certainly be returned" from your side.

That disposition which unanimously exists here for the promotion of uninterrupted harmony between the countries has induced the Magistrates in Quarter Sessions to take immediate steps to punish the offender, and in consequence he has been this day bound under recognizance to answer at the next assizes for the offence.

We trust this example will be followed with equal promptitude and a similar disposition on your part should any like instance occur.

We respectfully are,

THOMAS DICKSON,
R. GRANT,
JAMES KERBY.

To Messrs Benjamin Barton, Rufus Spalding, Joshua Fairbanks.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, April 22, 1812.

SIR,—I had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter, dated the 24th ultimo, and I entreat you to believe that no act within my control shall afford the Government of the United States a legitimate pretext to add to a clamor which has been so artfully raised against England.

We have received the account of the removal of the embargo, and that the most rigorous measures have already been adopted to prevent the least infringement of it upon the Niagara River. Armed men in colored clothes are continually patrolling along the shore. These troops are stated to have recently arrived, but I have not been able to ascertain whether they belong to the new levy or to the militia. They are reported to amount to about 300. Colonel Procter has doubtless written fully on the subject, but unfortunately the letters by some negligence were left at Niagara. The accounts, which have reached me, are not therefore so satisfactory as could be wished. An idle boy is stated to have wantonly fired with ball at the guard opposite Queenston, and it appears that the Americans were guilty of a similar outrage, by firing during the night into a room in which a woman was sitting. Luckily no mischief followed. Being detained here upon civil business, I have sent Captain Glegg over to see how matters stand and to arrange with civil and military authorities the best means of preventing a recurrence of a practice which may easily lead to serious consequences. I hope to be at Niagara myself the day after to-morrow.

I beg leave to assure Your Excellency that I receive with no small degree of pride the praise bestowed on my endeavors to improve the militia system of this Province, and as the bill underwent some alterations after the departure of Colonel McDonnell, particularly in limiting its operation to the end of the ensuing session, I shall have the honor to forward for Your Excellency's information the law as now enforced. I have by partial and gentle

means already commenced to give it operation, and make not the least doubt that a sufficient number will be found ready to volunteer to complete the flank companies, and I here beg leave to parade the flank companies six times in each month, but, as no provision is made for remunerating the men, I presume to submit for Your Excellency's indulgent consideration that the commissaries be instructed to issue rations for the number actually present at exercise. These companies, I expect, will be composed of the best description of inhabitants, who in most cases will have to go a great distance to attend parade, and unless this liberal provision be allowed will be liable to heavy expense or be subject to considerable privations. According to my present arrangements, the number embodied will not exceed 700, and when the companies are completed throughout the provinces they must be calculated at 1,800, and as during harvest and the winter months few or no parades will take place, the total expense attending the measure can be of no material consequence in a pecuniary point of view, and may in a political light be productive at this juncture of considerable benefit.

I have likewise to request that such portion of clothing as Your Excellency can conveniently spare from the King's stores may be forwarded to enable me to clothe such companies as are the most likely to be called upon duty.

I am anxious to hear the real object of the embargo; should it be directed solely against England the probability is that it leads to a war; but should France be included in its operation nothing of the kind need be dreaded.

In the expectation of having the honor of seeing Your Excellency shortly at York, I limit for the present the works of the military artificers at this place in preparing a temporary magazine for the reception of the spare powder at Fort George and Kingston, and the excavation of the ditch for the proposed fortifications of the spot on which the government house stands.

I transmit for Your Excellency's perusal a detailed account of the transactions which led to the unjustifiable censure passed by the House of Assembly upon Chief Justice Scott. It is written by Mr. Nichol himself, and the warmth with which he has expressed his indignation at the wanton exercise of a power yet undefined, as far as regards this Province, is not therefore surprising. I am convinced that whenever the business is brought legally before the judges they will refuse to sanction the enormous power, under the name of privilege, which the House arrogates to itself. The executive will in that case be placed in a very awkward predicament. Mr. Nichol, having commenced civil actions against the speaker and sergeant-at-arms for false imprisonment, will, should he succeed in

obtaining damages, bring the question with double force on the tapis. The violence and ignorance which in all probability will mark the proceedings of the House cannot fail of producing a dissolution. I apply forcibly to ministers for instructions, but should they be contrary to the opinion which the judges of the Court of King's Bench have formed of the law, I am led to believe they will not influence the members; therefore one of two alternatives must be resorted to, either the appointment of more docile judges or the decision of the question by a British Act of Parliament. I trust, for the tranquillity and prosperity of the Province, that the latter mode may be preferred. I have thus freely, and perhaps with rather too much haste to be sufficiently explicit, stated the difficulties which in all likelihood I shall have to encounter at the next meeting of the legislature. Should the effect of the embargo appear to be directed solely at Great Britain, I shall avail myself of the confidence placed in me and order the purchase of horses to enable the car brigade to act in case of necessity. This being a service which requires infinite trouble and practice to bring to any degree of perfection, cannot be too soon attended to.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 167-170.)

Major General Brock to Mr. Noah Freer, Military Secretary to the Governor General.

York, April 23, 1812.

Sir,—I transmit herewith for the information of the Commander of the Forces a letter received from the Earl of Liverpool, authorizing an increase of £200 per annum to the salary of Colonel Claus, Deputy Superintendent of the Indian affairs, to commence from the first of January last.

The inconvenience to which the public service has already been exposed, owing to a scarcity of specie; the likelihood of the evil being increased by the operation of the embargo, and the almost total impossibility in the event of war of getting a sufficient supply to defray the ordinary expenses of Government, have led me to consider the best means of obviating so serious a difficulty. And having consulted with some of the principal merchants as to the practicability of introducing a paper currency with any probability of success, I think myself warranted in stating that such an arrangement would, particularly in the event of war, be generally supported throughout the Province. The old inhabitants understand perfectly the circulation of paper as a substitute for specie, and having been formerly in the habit of receiving the notes of private individuals, they would not hesitate taking the more certain security of Govern-

ment, especially if convinced that payment could not be made in any other way.

The commissaries ought to be instructed to receive this paper as cash, giving bills in return on Quebec. It is supposed that the circulation of 10 or £15,000 would answer every purpose. No note under 5s. or above £10 should be issued. The accompanying letter from Mr. Selby, the Receiver-General, will fully elucidate the business.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st of April. The Commissary-General will, doubtless, have been apprized that his instructions to Mr. McGill arrived in time to supersede those he received from me. Too great dependence ought not to be placed on the surplus of the several species of stores at the different posts. I have reason to think that at Amherstburg nearly the entire excess will be found damaged and unserviceable. Being desirous to ascertain the actual state of the stores at that post, I directed a month ago a regular survey to be taken of every article, and the moment I receive the report it shall be forwarded to head-quarters.

Flour has risen to eight dollars and one-half per barrel. The effect of the embargo is not yet felt. Upwards of 40,000 barrels, the produce of the south of Lake Ontario, will be kept by it from the Montreal market.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 170-1.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, April 28, 1812.)

We understand a company of VOLUNTEERS from Batavia have arrived at Lewiston.

On Tuesday the 21st inst. upwards of 170 men VOLUNTEERED their services to form two companies in this village, to act when an emergency should call for.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

QUEBEC, April 30, 1812.

SIR,—I have just heard from Mr. Foster that the Secretary at War at Washington has transmitted orders to Governor Tompkins of New York, to send 500 of the State Militia to Niagara; 500 to the mouth of the Black River opposite to Kingston, and 600 to Champlain, in consequence of the hostile appearances in Canada. Mr. Foster is of opinion the Government of the United States calculates that something will happen on the part of these men to produce a quarrel with the British troops, which may lead to retaliation

on both sides and occasion hostilities to commence, as in this way alone it seems thought an unjust war can be forced on the American people, who are represented as really averse to it. We must therefore use every effort in our power to prevent any collision from taking place between our forces and the American.

I have also received information that the American garrison at Fort Chicago, not exceeding 60 men, has been ordered to Detroit in consequence of apprehensions from the Indians.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 172-3.)

Thomas Barclay, H. M. Consul-General at New York, to Sir George Prevost.

(Extract.)

NEW YORK, May 5th, 1812.

You may consider war as inevitable. It will take place in July at the latest. Upper Canada will be the first object. Military stores of all kinds and provisions are daily sending from hence towards the lines; 13,500 militia, the quota of this State, are drawn and ordered to be in readiness at a moment's notice.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 311.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, May 5, 1812.)

The troops from Batavia, who lately volunteered their services to defend our frontiers from "nocturnal incursions," stationed at Lewiston, have evacuated that town and returned to their respective homes.

(File in Buffalo Public Library)

From Colonel Baynes to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, May 14, 1812.

SIR,—I have great satisfaction in telling you that I have reported the Glengarry Light Infantry more than complete to the establishment of 400 rank and file, and have received Sir George Prevost's commands to recruit for a higher establishment; indeed the quotas the officers have suggested to fulfill will nearly amount to double that number, and from the very great exertions I have no doubt of succeeding by the end of this year. Two officers have divided Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for their hunting ground, and are permitted to receive Acadians, and Lieutenant Ronald McDonnell of the Canadians proceeds in a few days to Pictou and the Highland Settlements on the coast and gulf. He is an officer that appears eminently qualified for that service, and he is sanguine that the proffer of lands in the Scotch settlements of Upper Canada

will induce great numbers to enter. I am assured from various channels that the men I have got are generally young, rather too much so, and of a good description, there being very few Yankees among them.

. . . . . .

Sir George has announced his intention of recommending Battersby to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the Glengarry corps, and ordered him to take command of the recruits assembled at Three Rivers. Your Major of Brigade (Thomas Evans) will be recommended to succeed to his majority in the King's Regiment.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 172-3.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, U. C., May 15th, 1812.

SIR,—I have this day been honored with Your Excellency's confidential communication dated the 30th ulto.

I have long since thought that nothing but the public voice restrained the United States Government from commencing direct hostilities, and it is but reasonable to expect that they will seek every opportunity to inflame the minds of the people against England, in order to bring them the more readily into their measures. It will be my study to guard against any event that can give them any just cause of complaint, but the proximity of the two countries will in all probability produce collisions, which, however accidentally brought about, will be represented as so many acts of aggressions. It would not surprise me if their first attempt to create irritation was the seizing the islands in the channel, to which both countries lay claim. Such was represented to Sir James Craig on a former occasion to be their intention.

In addition to the force specified by Your Excellency, I understand that six companies of the Ohio militia are intended for Detroit. Our interest with the Indians will materially suffer in consequence of these preparations being allowed to proceed with impunity. I have always considered that the reduction of Detroit would be the signal of a cordial co-operation on their part, and if we are not in sufficient force to effect this object no reliance ought to be placed on the Indians.

About forty regulars were last week added to the garrison of Niagara, and by all accounts barracks are to be immediately constructed at Black Rock, almost opposite Fort Erie, for a large force.

I returned three days ago from an excursion to Fort Erie, the Grand River, where the Indians of the Six Nations are settled, and back by the head of the lake. Every gentleman with whom I had

an opportunity of conversing assured me that an exceeding good disposition prevailed among the people. The flank companies in the districts in which they have been established were instantly completed with volunteers, and, indeed, an almost unanimous disposition to serve is daily manifested. I shall proceed to extend this system now that I have ascertained the people are so well disposed, but my means are very limited.

I propose detaching one hundred rank and file of the 41st to Amherstburg almost immediately.

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 112.)

Sir George Prevost to the Earl of Liverpool.

(Extract.)

No. 46.

QUEBEC, 18th May, 1812.

MY LORD,—In obedience to the command signified to me in Your Lordship's despatch No. 7, of the 13th February, I now have the honor to report upon the military position of His Majesty's North American Provinces and the means of defending them.

. . . . . .

Fort George is a temporary field work now repairing to render it tenable, but in its most improved state it cannot make much resistance against an enemy in considerable force. The garrison consists of a captain's command of artillery and about 400 men of the 41st, the whole under Colonel Procter. The militia in the neighborhood does not exceed 2,000 nominal men. At Fort Erie there is a captain's command of the 41st, and at Chippawa a subaltern's. The American posts opposite are Fort Niagara, Fort Schlosser, Black Rock, and Buffalo Creek. In event of hostilities it would be highly advantageous to gain possession of Fort Niagara to secure the navigation of the river.

York has a good harbour, and is best adapted for a depot for military stores when converted into a post of defence, and also for a dock yard. The militia is computed at 1500 men.

Kingston, at the head of boat navigation of the St. Lawrence, is contiguous to a very flourishing settlement on the American frontier, and exposed to a sudden attack, which, if successful, would cut off communication between the Canadas and deprive us of our naval resources. The garrison consists of four companies of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, under Major McPherson. The militia are about 1,500. The Americans have posts in the vicinity, not only opposite, but above and below, with good harbours, which are open to the resources of a very populous country. In event of war

this post is indispensably necessary for preservation of communication to establish a strong post for regulars and militia to secure the navigation of the St. Lawrence above the rapids to Lake Ontario.

The total number of militia in Upper Canada is calculated at 11,000 men, of which it might not be prudent to arm more than 4,000.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1812-13, p. 3.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, May 19, 1812.)

A company of the 100,000 men, from the town of Hamburg, under the command of Major Whaley, arrived in this village last evening on their march for Lewiston.

Other companies are on their way from the different parts of the Genesee county for the frontier.

Colonel Swift of Ontario County, who is appointed to command on the frontiers, arrived in this village on Sunday last.

Perhaps no recruiting regiment in this country ever met with so great success as that of the Glengarry Sharp Shooters. This regiment has had enlisting orders about five weeks, and it is said they have already enlisted about 500 men. The Newfoundland and Canadian Fencible Regiments are also said to have improved by this uncommon spirit for enlistment, but, altho' their success has been uncommonly good it does not in any shape equal that of the Glengarry Regiment.—*Montreal Courier.*

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Major D. Noon. Dy. Q. M. G. of State of New York, to General P. B. Porter, Q. M. General of that State.

OGDENSBURG, 20th May, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Since I had the honor of addressing you last I have made the necessary arrangements at Sackett's Harbor and at Gravelly Point to accommodate two hundred and seventy men at each place, if required. Captain Wolsy of the U. S. brig *Oneida* was so good as to give up his barracks, which were occupied by his crew during the winter, until the first of November next. This by some improvement will make very comfortable barracks for the present, and give time to build others, if required. I am also happy to inform you that since my arrival at this place I have been able to make a purchase of a range of buildings which was formerly occupied as a ropewalk, having an excellent frame, for the term of three years from the first of July next, at which time the lease from the first purchaser expires, subject to a small ground rent a year.

It is with great difficulty I could get any ground near the village, and the State owns none, from the bad conduct the inhabitants say of the last soldiers quartered here—I would rather say from the great desire the inhabitants have to smuggle without the aid of soldiers. The whole is 700 feet by 15, and the frame already is 230 by 15, which will contain about 300 men very comfortably, as from the manner I intend to make the divisions and berths they will make very good winter quarters. I have nothing more to say at present, but should wish to be informed in what manner I may get money, should the same be wanting, and also your opinion respecting blankets, as I have been very much inquired of respecting them, as some officers told me they had some men who could not get on for want of means to buy. Our enemies on the other side of the river are making all the preparations in their power. There has passed about sixty boats full of recruits for Montreal, and the same number of boats going up with ammunition and arms, &c., in a few days, in my sight. The inhabitants of this place don't feel much alarmed, as they say the Indians opposite to this and below are divided, and, if report say right, friendly to our Government. I expect to be able to get away from here in about four days for Sackett's Harbor and Oswego, where I expect to have the pleasure of hearing from you. Since writing the above there has arrived here about 50 men, and more expected. I am ready for them.

(MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Colonel Baynes to Major General Brock.

QUEBEC, May 21, 1812.

SIR,—Sir George has allowed me to make the following extract from a despatch of Mr. Foster's, dated the 28th April, which I do in the Minister's own words: "The American Government affect now to have taken every step incumbent on the executive as preparatory to war, and leave the ultimate decision to Congress, as vested by the constitution in that body, which is fluctuating as the seas. There is a great party in the House of Representatives for war, composed principally of the western and southern States—members who have little to lose and may gain, while the northern and eastern States are vehement against it. The embargo seems to have been resolved upon because at the moment they did not know what else to do. The Cabinet wished only sixty days—the Senate made it ninety. Our Government leaves no room to expect a repeal of the Order-in-Council, yet they wait for the return of the *Hornet*. Something decisive must then be known; perhaps when they become completely convinced of Bonaparte's playing upon them, it will end in declaring against France. The question of adjournment

was lost, notwithstanding there was an absolute majority known a few minutes before in its favor, revolutionists jealous of younger men taking a lead. The army cannot, I conceive, soon be filled up —they get few recruits."

You will have heard, long ere you receive this, that the 49th Regiment is ordered home; the 41st are by the same authority to return to Europe, but Sir George will not, under existing circumstances, attempt to relieve the posts in Upper Canada, so that there will be no immediate change in your quarter. Sir George regrets that he has not field officers of the description you require to command at Kingston and Amherstburg. The only prospect of relief in that respect which he has in view is from the arrival of the absent inspecting field officers.

The arrangement you propose respecting the unfortunate delinquents of the 41st Regiment will perfectly meet the approbation of Sir George, who approved of your not forwarding the resignation of the younger members, or, indeed, of any, if they are worthy of consideration.

Kempt has brought his name into notice in the assault of La Picurina, an outwork at Badajoz, where he commanded, being on duty in the trenches. The Glengarry levy goes on swimmingly.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 176-7.)

Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, May 27, 1812.

SIR,—I am much pleased to find by your letter of the 22d ultimo you had taken precautions to prevent any act occurring within your control that should afford the Government of the United States a legitimate pretext to add to the clamor artfully raised by it against England.

The circumstance which happened to the guard stationed opposite to Queenston arrived here much exaggerated. Your account of it silenced the idle reports in circulation.

I agree with you in deploring the limitation until the end of the ensuing session in the operation of the Militia Act for Upper Canada, but as in the event of hostilities it might not be possible to convene the Legislature, then the bill would in all probability continue in force during the war, provided you were not induced to make an exertion for a more perfect law.

Colonel Baynes having informed me he had an opportunity of communicating with you more expeditiously than by post, I desired him to make you acquainted with the peaceful intelligence I had just received from Mr. Foster; but, although it comes with a good

deal of reservation, still it warrants me in recommending the most rigid economy in carrying on the King's service and in avoiding all expense that has not become absolutely necessary, as it is with the utmost difficulty money can be raised for the ordinary service.

I am apprehensive that I cannot look forward to the pleasure of seeing you before the end of August, as my presence in the Province is become indispensably necessary during the first operation of the new militia law.

Many thanks for the particulars of the transaction which led to the censure passed by the House of Assembly on Chief Justice Scott.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 177-8.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 27th May, 1812.

No. 49.

MY LORD,—

. . . . . .

I enclose extracts from Major General Brock's report on the state of affairs in Upper Canada. The most positive directions have been given to the selected officers entrusted with commands on the frontiers contiguous to the posts occupied by the American forces, in addition to the orders relating to the precaution and vigilance become indispensably necessary to observe in their intercourse with the people of the United States, perfect civility, and to prevent the occurrence of circumstances calculated to create irritation between the two countries.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 312.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, June 2d, 1812.)

Messrs. Granger, Parrish and Jones held on Tuesday last a council with the chiefs of the Six Nations. There was a full meeting of the chiefs, when they were asked what their determination was in the event of war between the United States and Great Britain. They answered, as we understand, that it was a general understanding among them to take no part, but that they were united in sending a deputation to their brethren in Canada in order to agree upon some plan in case of hostilities between the two countries.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Peter Walton & Son to James Cummings & Co. of Chippawa.

(Extract.)

ALBANY, 6th June, 1812.

We are sorry to inform you that the prevailing opinion of the people in this place is that war would be declared by Congress against Great Britain during the course of this week. All the late news from Washington will warrant this opinion. If they should, under the circumstances it will be very unpopular indeed. Our own opinion is that war will be declared. If so it will operate very much against us all.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 9th June, 1812.

No. 52.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Last night I received a secret communication from Consul General Barclay at New York, dated 30th May, 1812.

Extract.

His Majesty's Minister at Washington writes me on the 27th instant that notwithstanding the clear proofs of the continuance of the French Decrees, it seems war will be proposed on Monday, and, it is said, will be carried in the House of Representatives.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 339.)

Extract from a Letter Dated at Prescott, 14th June, 1812.

A British vessel, the *Lord Nelson*, sailed from this on the 2nd inst., loaded with merchandise, for Queenston and Niagara, and when about 50 miles below that port she and another British vessel in company fell in with the United States Brig *Oneida*. One of the vessels tacked to the northward, the other stood in for the south shore and was brought to by firing three guns at her. She was then boarded and a prize master and crew took possession of the *Lord Nelson* and anchored with her next day in Sackett's Harbor, where she now lies unrigged. The reasons given for taking the vessel are that she was found without a register or Customs House clearance on board. The laws of Upper Canada do not require that a merchant vessel should have either register or clearance.

G. P.

In Sir George Prevost's despatch to Lord Liverpool, No. 53, 22nd June, 1812.
(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 349.)

Letter from Prescott, Dated 15th June, 1812.

In addition to the capture of the *Lord Nelson*, I have to acquaint you that the *Ontario* (an American vessel) which had loaded at Queenston with 700 barrels of flour, bound to this place, was on Friday last taken by an American armed boat a little below Carleton Island and carried to Gravelly Point. This vessel had left the United States ports previous to the embargo laws, and had made several voyages within the Province since the opening of navigation. I can hear of no reason why the above named vessel was detained, with a British cargo on board, but that the boarding officer suspected her.

G. P.

Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch to Lord Liverpool, No. 53, 22d June, 1812. (Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 351.)

Hon. Wm. Eustis, Secretary of War, to Augustus Porter.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 15th, 1812.

SIR,—Two companies of militia are on their march for Sandusky, and General Hull will receive reinforcements at Detroit. You will, therefore, in addition to the usual deposits and the requisition particularly designated in my letter of May 21st, immediately provide and deposit fourteen thousand rations at Sandusky, and three hundred and sixty-six thousand rations at Detroit. Your letter of May 27 and bond are received.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, June 16, 1812.

Colonel Swift has returned from Albany and resumed command of the volunteers on Niagara River. The volunteers have all arrived on the frontier, to the number of 600.

ANOTHER "SPECK."

One of the sentinels at the Rock some time last week having liberty to discharge his musket, levelled his piece across the river and fired the same, intending, as he said, to see how prettily the ball would skip on the water, when the ball, disdaining to be tied down to a milk and water course, overleaped the bounds of reason and the boundary of the United States and deposited its cold self into a rail on a fence near the bank of the river and also near the house of a gentleman, &c. We are assured that the affair will be noticed and may possibly lead to a correspondence.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, June 23, 1812.

To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette:

SIR,—Whilst strict attention has been observed by the inhabit-

ants on the Canada shore opposite Black Rock not to molest or offend any person residing at the Rock or its vicinity, we had reason to expect that a reciprocal attention would have been shown to us, but we are extremely sorry that our expectation has been disappointed, and that our peace has been disturbed and our inhabitants annoyed by some thoughtless or evil disposed person having recently fired several musket balls from the American shore. The whistling of these bullets has been distinctly heard and ascertained by the examination of several reputable persons. One ball came near to the blacksmith shop, one near to Henry Trout's tavern, and one a little lower down the river.

While we regret the cause that has occasioned this statement, we feel confident that it requires only to be made known to the authorities, who assuredly will prevent such licentious behavior in future, and therefore request that you will give it a place in your impartial paper, and oblige

Your humble servants,

JOHN WARREN, SR., J. P.
JOHN WARREN, JR., J. P.
B. HARDISON.
HUGH ALEXANDER.

Fort Erie, 17th June, 1812.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, June 23d, 1812.

War is declared by the United States against the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and its dependencies. You will therefore be vigilant and attentive to the safety of the frontier of Onondaga. You are by this letter authorized to order out Major Moseley's battalion of riflemen, (two companies), Captain Mulholland's company of artillery, or any other part of the volunteer or detached troops of your brigade, to reinforce the Oswego detachment upon the requisition of the commandant of that post. Should Col. Fleming accept the office of Commissary, to which he is appointed, Lt.-Col. Erastus Cleveland of Madison County will succeed him in that command.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

WILLIAM PAULDING, JR,
Adjutant-General.

To Brig'r General John Ellis.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, June 23d, 1812.

You will please to order out immediately and send on in such small detachments as can be accommodated on the road, the troops detached from Ontario, Genesee, and Niagara as part of the 13,500 men. They may be equipped from the arsenal with arms and ammunition; their clothing and blankets must be found by themselves. Camp kettles and other camp equipage will be forwarded immediately. Every officer and every citizen who values the safety of his fellow citizens on the frontier and the dignity and honor of his country will exert himself to the utmost to inspire mutual confidence, to obviate as much as possible the difficulties incident to the assemblage of militia detachments, and by every possible act of kindness to assist and expedite the movements of the brave men who turn out in behalf of their country. Genl. Wadsworth is ordered into service, and will take the command for the present of the detachment already out and of the troops which may be ordered into service on the Niagara frontier.

The declaration of war between the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and its dependencies and the United States, which declaration is enclosed, will call for the services of officers of a higher grade than Brigadier-General in a short time, and you will please hold yourself in readiness accordingly. The troops are, of course, to act offensively whenever an opportunity presents and the commanding officer may deem it to be for the good of the country.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

WILLIAM PAULDING, Jun'r,
Adjutant-General.

To Major-General Amos Hall.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, June 23d, 1812.

You will exert yourself to forward the military stores which may be wanted from Canandaigua towards the Niagara frontier, and to supply every deficiency as far as may be practicable. If you can procure cannon ball to be cast, let it be done, and let them suit the calibers of sixes, fours, and threes. I have ordered additional troops to the frontier; of course great exertions must be made to have them accommodated in every respect. This duty will fall on your department at present, and I shall expect your usual skill, promptness and patriotism in the performance of them. Camp kettles, a few tents and some knapsacks and a quantity of cannon ball will be sent on to-morrow with orders to proceed with the utmost

despatch. Genl. Wadsworth is ordered with the detached troops of Ontario, Genesee, and Niagara to take the command, accommodate them, feed them, cherish them. They will act offensively whenever it may be judged proper.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

WILLIAM PAULDING, Jun'r,
Adjutant-General.

To Quartermaster-General Peter B. Porter.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, June 23d, 1812.

War is declared between the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and its dependencies and the United States of America and the territories thereof. As the Brigadier assigned to command the most westerly detachment, you are hereby required to assemble the volunteers and detached troops of Ontario, Genesee and Niagara Counties, to cause them to be equipped with arms and ammunition at the Ontario and Batavia arsenals. You are also at liberty to require the use of and transport with the troops the field pieces attached to such companies of artillery within the district above mentioned as shall not volunteer or turn out in defence of the country with patriotic promptitude. Ball for the cannon and the other articles in which the arsenals are deficient will be forwarded without delay.

In the meantime you will be pleased to exert yourself to promote a disposition to maintain the rights and honor of the country, and may proceed to Black Rock with the troops. You may collect or go directly to Lt.-Col. Swift and order the troops to follow. You are at liberty to act offensively as well as defensively, according as in the exercise of a sound discretion may appear most for the safety and interest of the United States and the good people thereof.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

WILLIAM PAULDING, Jun'r,
Adjutant-General,

To Brig'r-General William Wadsworth.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

Colonel Philetus Swift and Benjamin Barton to Governor Tompkins.

SIR,—Situated as we are on the frontiers and in plain view of the armed force which we expect every day to call our enemy gives us very serious apprehensions of the consequences that may ensue unless timely aid is given to ward off the blow that may fall

on this section of the country if war is declared in our present defenceless situation. We consider it our duty to state to you the present prospect of affairs in this quarter in order that Your Excellency may have as much information on the subject as possible, and to enable you to adopt such measures as you may think most advisable for the better defence and security of the frontier. The British on the opposite side are making the most active preparations for defence. New troops are arriving from the Lower Province constantly, and the quantity of military stores, &c., that have arrived within these few weeks are astonishing. Vast quantities of arms and ammunition are passing up the country, no doubt to arm the Indians around the upper lakes, for they have not white men enough to make use of such quantities as are passing. One-third of the militia of the Upper Province are formed into companies called flankers, and are well armed and equipped out of the King's stores and are regularly trained one day in the week by an officer of the standing troops. A volunteer troop of horse has lately been raised and have drawn their sabres and pistols. A company of militia artillery has been raised this spring and exercise two or three days in the week on the plains near Fort George and practice firing, and have become very expert. The noted Isaac Swayzy has, within a few days, received a captain's commission for the flying artillery, of which they have a number of pieces, and we were yesterday informed by a respectable gentleman from that side of the river that he was actually purchasing horses for the purpose of exercising his men. They are repairing Fort George and building a new fort at York. A number of boats are daily employed, manned by their soldiers, plying between Fort George and Queenston, conveying stone, lime, and pickets for necessary repairs, and, to cap the whole, they are making and using every argument and persuasion to induce the Indians to join them, and we are informed that the Mohawks have volunteered their services. In fact, nothing is left undone by their people that is necessary for their defence. It has also been suggested to me by a gentleman of respectability residing there, and which we have every reason to believe to be true, that if war is declared and we remain in the present defenceless situation that an attack will be made on Fort Niagara, and in that case it must fall, as the force they have there is but small and the works in a miserable and decayed situation, and can make but a feeble defence. The object in taking that fortress will be the command of the mouth of the river to prevent any supplies coming to this side by water.

We have thus endeavored to give Your Excellency some idea of the preparations that are making by the British in Upper

Canada, as well as the people we have to meet if a war takes place. Our great fears are that our Government will consider the taking of that country of so trifling a nature that they will send but a small force and badly supplied. If that should be the case many valuable men will be lost and the invading army shamefully defeated.

We have great confidence that the general Government will adopt such measures as in their opinion will be the best for the welfare and safety of the whole, but from want of proper information may be led into an error. We therefore hope Your Excellency will use your influence with the general Government to have a respectable force on the frontier and well equipped and supplied.

Lewiston, June 24, 1812.

(Tompkins Papers, vol. VII., pp. 234-7, New York State Library.)

Letter to Mr. H. W. Ryland, Secretary to Sir George Prevost.

MONTREAL, 24th June, 1812.

You will be pleased to inform the Governor-General that we have just received by an express which left New York on the 20th inst. and Albany on Sunday last at 6 a. m., the account that war against Great Britain is declared.

No particulars whatever are mentioned, but we cannot doubt of the fact, which we deem it our duty to put His Excellency in possession of without delay and accordingly send this by express.

FORSYTH, RICHARDSON & CO.,
McTAVISH, McGILLIVRAY & CO.

Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch to Lord Liverpool, No. 54, June 25th, 1812.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 4.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 25th June, 1812.

No. 54.

MY LORD,—Upon returning from the inspection of a battalion of embodied militia training at some distance from Quebec, the intelligence herewith transmitted was delivered to me, it having arrived two hours before. It comes through so good a channel that I transmit it to Your Lordship by a vessel getting under sail for Cork, altho' I have not received any official communication from Mr. Foster. The writers of the accompanying letter being the principals of the Northwest and Southwest Fur Companies, were so much interested in the question of war that they took extraordinary means to obtain information of the decision of Congress that they

might be enabled to preserve much valuable merchandise exposed to the first aggression of the Americans. I hope Your Lordship will send me a supply of money, the want of which I have already so strongly represented.

It is with extreme disappointment that I acquaint Your Lordship that the supply of arms and accoutrements shipped for Canada last autumn has not yet arrived.

(Letter from Forsyth, Richardson & Co. to Mr. Ryland, announcing the declaration of war, enclosed.)

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 2.)

Colonel Baynes to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, June 25th, 1812.

SIR,—Sir George Prevost desires me to inform you that he has this instant received intelligence from Mr. Richardson by an express to the Northwest Company, announcing that the American Government had declared war against Great Britain. This despatch left New York on the 20th instant, and does not furnish any other circumstance of intelligence whatever. His Excellency is induced to give perfect and entire credit to this report, although it has not yet reached him through any official channel. Indeed, the extraordinary despatch which has attended this courier fully explains his not having received the Minister's letters, of which he will not fail to give you the earliest intimation.

Mr. Richardson informs His Excellency that it is the intention of the company to send six large canoes to receive their furs by the Grand River (or Ottawa), and should it be expedient to reinforce the post of St. Joseph, that they will be able to carry six soldiers in each boat. Anxious as Sir George feels to render you every aid in his power and to afford every possible assistance and protection to the Northwest Company, who have on their part assured their co-operation, His Excellency, nevertheless, does not think it advisable under existing circumstances to weaken the 49th Regiment, which occupies so important and critical a station; nor can he hold out any certain prospect of any further reinforcement until the arrival of the troops he has been led to expect from England, but directs me to assure you of his cordial wish to render you every efficient support in his power.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 193-4.)

Division Orders.

BLOOMFIELD, June 26th, 1812.

The detachment of infantry made from the 7th Division, under and by virtue of Division Orders of the 11th of May last, have

been organized by the Commander-in-Chief into one brigade, the command whereof is assigned to Brigadier-General William Wadsworth, and is denominated the 7th Brigade. It is composed of three regiments, numbered and commanded as follows:—

18th, Hugh W. Dobbin of Junius, Seneca County.

19th, Henry Bloom of Geneva, Cayuga County.

20th, Peter Allen of Honeoye, Ontario County.

The 18th Regiment will be composed of the detachment from the brigades of Generals McClure, Rea and Hopkins.

The 19th Regiment will be composed of the detachments from Generals Tillotson's and Himrod's brigades.

The 20th Regiment will be composed of the detachments from Generals Wadsworth's and Burnett's brigades.

The officers commanding the 18th Regiment (except one company from General McClure's Brigade) and the 20th Regiment are ordered to concentrate the troops under their respective command in such convenient places as they may think most convenient and proper. The detachments will be furnished from the arsenals at Canandaigua and Batavia with arms, accoutrements and ammunition. Camp kettles and other camp equipage will be furnished and forwarded with all convenient speed. The troops must supply themselves with knapsacks, clothing and blankets.

These regiments, being thus armed and equipped, are ordered to march without delay to the Niagara frontier, under the direction and subject to the orders of Brigadier-General Wadsworth.

To the brigade composed of the above regiments (together with the militia already detached and stationed on the Niagara frontier), the command whereof is assigned Brigadier-General Wadsworth, are assigned for Brigade Staff, Julius Keyes of Clarence, Niagara County, Brigade-Major and Inspector; Henry Wells of Elmira, Tioga County, Brigade-Quartermaster. To the regiments above designated are assigned the following Majors:—

18th Regiment, Major John Morrison of Niagara County, Major James Ganson of Caledonia, Genesee County.

19th Regiment, Major Noah Olmstead of Cayuga County, Major Aranthus Everts of Hector, Seneca County.

20th Regiment, Major George Smith of Livonia, Ontario County; Major Thomas Lee of Benton, Ontario County.

The regimental staff will be selected by the officers assigned to the command of the above regiments respectively.

Every officer commanding a detached regiment will forthwith transmit the Adjutant-General a roster of the names and places of residence of the field and staff officers, an accurate inspection return, and correct copies of the muster rolls of the companies and troops

thereof, and will also convey an exact copy of the inspection return to the Commander of the Brigade and send it to the General of the Division, that he may in due season transmit to the Commander-in-Chief an inspection return thereof.

The 19th Regiment and the company from General McClure's brigade are not at present ordered to take the field, but will hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice.

The Major-General, confiding in the patriotism and courage of the brave troops ordered into service, entertains no doubt but their conduct will be such as to ensure the grateful plaudits of their beloved country. As the service into which they are called will be a service of privations and dangers, it is hoped that it will be borne with the fortitude of men and the resolution of freemen, and that the soldiers will carry with them the enduring recollection that as citizens they have assumed the helmet of war for a season the more effectually to secure the blessings of peace, to attain which no sacrifice short of a sacrifice of national honor can be too great.

By order of the Major-General.

GEORGE HOSMER,
Aide-de-Camp.

(From the *Repository* of Canandaigua, June 30th, 1812.)
File in the Wood Library, Canandaigua, N. Y.

District General Order.

NIAGARA, 27th June, 1812.

D. G. O.

Colonel Procter will assume the command of the troops between Niagara and Fort Erie.

The Hon'ble Col. Claus will command the militia stationed between Niagara and Queenston, and Lieut.-Colonel Clark from Queenston to Fort Erie.

The commissariat at their respective posts will issue rations and fuel for the members actually present. The car brigade and those of the Provincial Cavalry are included in the order.

Officers commanding posts or detachments will sign the necessary certificate previous to issuing the rations. The detachment of the 41st, stationed at the Two and Four-Mile Points, will be relieved by an equal number of the First Lincoln Militia to-morrow morning. It is recommended to the militia to bring blankets with them on service.

The troops will be kept in a constant state of readiness for service, and Colonel Procter will direct the necessary guards and patrols, which are to be made down the bank and close to the water's edge.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nichol is appointed Quartermaster-General

to the militia forces, with the same pay and allowances as those granted to the Adjutant-General.

MAJOR-GENERAL BROCK.

Issued by order of the Colonel.

JOHN CLARK,
Lieut.-Adjt. 1st Lincoln Militia.

Lieut.-Colonel Robert Nichol to Captain James Cummings.

QUEENSTON, June 27, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Understanding that there may be some difficulty in getting teams at Chippawa prepared to carry boats, Mr. Phelps' teams are despatched to bring what they can. You will of course pay every attention to their being carefully loaded on the carriage, so that they may not be injured.

You will be pleased to apply to Capt. Bullock to transmit the enclosed letter to Fort Erie without delay.

Colonel Philetus Swift to Governor Tompkins.

HONORED SIR,—This moment, at six o'clock a. m., I received your despatches; although with so much speed, the British had them almost two days before us. I forbear giving you a detail of our circumstances here, as Mr. Barton and myself wrote in full length the last mail, which will be received before this. Our men are in high spirits, and the declaration of war does not dampen the spirits of officers nor soldiers.

Doctor Nathaniel Wilson, who is now surgeon of my detachment, one of our good friends and one whom I can cordially recommend, has a large family to maintain, and his wages is not sufficient support, wishes to be appointed hospital surgeon, if it can be. I wish to retain him in service if possible.

Black Rock, June 27, 1812.

(Tompkins Papers, vol. VII., p. 263, New York State Library.)

General Wm. Wadsworth to Governor Tompkins.

GENESEO, 28th June, 1812.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 23d instant. I take the command of the troops at Black Rock and its vicinity in obedience to Your Excellency's order with the greatest diffidence, having had no experience of actual service. My knowledge of the military art is limited; indeed, I foresee numberless difficulties and occurrences which will present to which I feel totally inadequate.

I have been ambitious that the regiment and brigade which I have commanded should be distinguished at their reviews, but I

confess myself ignorant of even the minor duties of the duty you have assigned me, and I am apprehensive that I may not only expose myself but my Government. Any aid which Your Excellency may think proper to order will be received with thanks. A military secretary intimately acquainted with the details of camp duty would be of great service to me.

Permit me to add that every exertion in my power shall be made to discharge the duties of my office and to merit the approbation of Your Excellency.

(Tompkins Papers, vol. VII., pp. 271-2, New York State Library.)

Major-General Amos Hall to Governor Tompkins.

BLOOMFIELD, June 28, 1812.

SIR,—About an hour since I received a letter by express from General Porter in 18 hours from Buffalo, advising that a small American sloop (called the *Commencement*), owned by Mr. Colt, sailed from that place up the lake about 12 o'clock on that day (Saturday). She had proceeded only about two leagues, when the wind, being light, two large boats, appearing to the spectators on this side to contain about 50 armed men and some ordnance, pursued her from Fort Erie, where the British armed ship is lying, and took her after several fires, the sloop having only four men on board, without arms. The two boats towed her into the harbor at Fort Erie. "The excitement by the event," (the General writes,) "was such that almost every man in Buffalo was anxious to embark in some small boats lying at that place to retake her, and I confess that on the first impression I was disposed to encourage and join them. But our boats being very light, and having nothing but small arms, I considered that it would be a wanton sacrifice of brave and patriotic men to send them out. Besides, the wind springing up, they could not be overtaken before they would reach the fort at Erie." He likewise adds that "I am informed that the British, having earlier information than we had of the declaration of war, have detained Lieut. Gansevoort of the American garrison at Niagara, and a boat's crew that happened to be on the British side on business." He concludes by urging the necessity of the detachment of militia ordered to march from Ontario, Genesee and Niagara Counties being forwarded with all possible speed, stating he would give every facility to their march.

We begin to realize that we are now in an actual state of war, hostilities having actually been commenced by the British on the lakes. Whether they will follow it up vigorously or not is uncertain; that course would be characteristic, and I think we have no reason to expect they will depart from it. I was in Canandaigua

this morning, and the opinion there is that they will pursue immediately every advantage to be gained by them.

We feel a general anxiety for our fellow-citizens on the frontiers, it being pretty well ascertained that the British have at least 1,500 regular troops who have seen service that can be brought to act offensively at the shortest notice, if they should think it advisable, together with a considerable body of militia well disciplined and completely armed. With such a force, should they not call to their aid the savage warriors, who are stated to be about 400, they might, notwithstanding the force we have at the post of Niagara, whom I have no doubt would make a brave defence, be able to do much mischief and commit great depredations on the frontiers nearest to the Niagara River. Our whole force, when the second detachment arrives, will probably be about 1,300 effective men.

If the above statements are correct, Your Excellency will judge whether a large force will not be necessary to guard the post and frontier on the Niagara River. In great haste.

N. B.—Four pieces of field artillery and 500 stands of arms, &c., passed Genesee River this morning on the way to Buffalo, taken from the arsenal in Canandaigua by order of the Quartermaster-General. They will possibly arrive at the place of destination on Tuesday.

(Tompkins Papers, vol. VII., pp. 274-7, New York State Library.)

Major-General Amos Hall to Governor Tompkins.

BLOOMFIELD, June 29, 1812.

SIR,—I this morning at 4 o'clock received by express from General Porter (in 12 hours from Black Rock) information that by every appearance on the British shore the troops were preparing to cross the river. The number of the British force is, I believe, about 1,500, as stated in my last letter.

General Porter was very urgent that every assistance should be forwarded that could possibly be put in motion. Major Mullany, commanding officer of the United States regular troops at Canandaigua, was requested to march his men on immediately. I was clearly of opinion that in such an emergency he would be justifiable to comply with the request. I wrote him by express, and at 8 o'clock he informed me that he would march his troops immediately. They will probably pass through Bloomfield this afternoon. The detachment of militia ordered to march will be on the way to-morrow. Everything will be done that the nature of the service and the exigency of the times require to hasten the troops to the Niagara frontier.

We are very much engaged at present in making the necessary arrangements for general defence.

I have ordered a company to be stationed at Sodus and Pulteneyville and one company at the mouth of the Genesee River.

Major Mullany will have about 250 men. But they have no arms, and must be furnished from the arsenal at Canandaigua.

The whole of the arms and accoutrements will be taken from the arsenal at Canandaigua to-day to furnish the last detachment. We shall be in immediate want of a supply, there being few arms and very little ammunition in the country.

I shall not close my letter, but wait till to-morrow morning, expecting to hear something more serious.

30th June, 7 o'clock in the morning.

I this morning received by express from Fort Niagara and Lewiston in less than 12 hours information that 1,500 troops and a large train of artillery were in view nearly opposite the post. Captain Leonard writes that he momently expected the attack to commence, but Mr. Barton thinks they will wait the arrival of their armed vessels.

I have ordered out a part of Captain Pierson's company of dragoons to form a line of communication from Niagara and Buffalo to this county. I shall send by mail, concluding that by express could not gain time to answer the purpose.

N. B.—It is all important that tents, if possible, should be sent on immediately. Camp equipage, I understand, is on the road.

(Tompkins Papers, vol. VII., pp. 281-2, New York State Library.)

Governor Tompkins to Hon. Wm. Eustis, Secretary at War.

ALBANY, 27th June, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 19th inst., announcing the important intelligence of a declaration of war against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and its dependencies, was received on Tuesday evening at eleven o'clock. Expresses with the information and with instructions for the commandants of posts on the frontiers were despatched in the course of that night. The express to Sackett's Harbor has returned with the satisfactory intelligence that the officers and men of that detachment are in fine spirits, are tolerably well accommodated, are perfectly united and harmonious, and received the intelligence of war with cheerfulness and determined courage.

In anticipation of orders to that effect, I have directed the frontier posts to be reinforced by detachments of militia of the counties immediately adjoining, and have also ordered into service

for the protection of the northern frontier between Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence the militia detached from Washington, Essex, Clinton and Franklin Counties, and have forwarded additional quantities of arms and ammunition and military stores to each point. You were advised by me last winter, and also when the former detachments were ordered out, that the State was not provided with camp equipage, and that we must rely upon the Genl Government for these articles.

It was also my wish that the Genl. Government should have availed itself of my repeated offers to forward and deposit in our frontier arsenals, free of expense, some arms, military stores and camp equipage in preparation for the event which has happened. The United States have now collections of enlisted troops at Plattsburg, Rome, Canandaigua and other frontier rendezvous within 100 rods of our arsenals, and yet these recruits are destitute of arms and ammunition and camp equipage.

Those at Plattsburg are within fifty miles of St. Regis and Cognawago Indians, by whom they might be attacked suddenly and with little hazard; unarmed and unprepared as they are, the regulars could not defend themselves, much less protect the inhabitants.

I do not mention the preceding circumstances by way of complaint, but in the hope and expectation that the statement of them may show you more fully the indispensable necessity of an immediate and earnest attention to the suggestions which follow.

A belief that General Dearborn's headquarters were to be at this place induced me to calculate that by conference and arrangement with him I should be able to procure from the United States at any time those military stores of which we are deficient, but I at the moment of needing his assistance [ascertained] that his headquarters are at Boston. General Gansevoort is very low, and incapable of attending to business of any kind. Col. Simonds has arrived here, but says he was ordered to report himself to Genl. Dearborn, and therefore can take no authority upon himself at present.

The keeper of the stores will not part with cannon, muskets, ammunition or other articles without the order of his superior officer.

Genl. Dearborn has requested me to order out militia for the Champlain frontier, and informs me that the Quartermaster-General will supply camp equipage for them. Upon application to the Quartermaster-General, who is now in Albany, I find there is no camp equipage except a few tents and about sixty camp kettles, which have been in our arsenal at this place for several years. For

the delivery of these even I cannot obtain a written order. The Deputy-Quartermaster-General will not give an order for their delivery without written directions from the Quartermaster-General, and the Quartermaster-General does not seem willing to give such written directions, or at least has not done it, although he is perfectly willing I should have the articles. Under such circumstances I shall presume to take possession of them at my own hazard, and shall accordingly forward them to-morrow morning, hoping that my proceedings on the emergency will be approved and confirmed.

The detachments already in service, you will please to recollect, are by your orders separate and independent corps, and the commandants, of course, will be embarrassed as to the course to be pursued by them in case of an attack of a part of the frontier not under their respective commands. Besides, they are in temporary barracks and have no tents or conveniences for removing more than one day's march from their present positions. Having thus stated some of the difficulties I have encountered and am likely to encounter in the protection of an extensive and exposed boundary upon Canada, I beg leave to request the immediate and earnest attention of Government to the following particulars:—

I.—To cause to be forwarded with the utmost possible expedition tents and other camp equipage and knapsacks for the frontier detachments, for without them they can form no offensive operation, and will be very inefficient for defence even. Competent authority ought also to be given to subordinate officers of the proper departments to press on the supply without waiting for the orders to pass through the superior officers of their respective departments should such superior officers be absent at the time.

II.—To send on a General Officer to take command of all the frontier detachments, or authorize me to require Major-Genl. Stephen Van Rensselaer of this city to take the command until further orders, and also to send on some engineers and other proper officers to aid in offensive operations at Niagara, Sackett's Harbor, &c.

III.—To place the cannon, muskets and ammunition, &c., belonging to the United States and now at this place, under the requisition of the Genl. who may proceed to the frontier command, or subject to the orders of some officer who may be stationed here, and to authorize the District Quartermaster in the absence of the Quartermaster-General immediately to comply with the orders of the General commanding on the frontier or of the officer stationed at this place.

Be assured, Sir, that I shall exert every nerve and afford every

aid in my power to prosecute the war vigorously, and I hope to an honorable and prosperous termination.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

Governor Tompkins to Major-General Dearborn.

ALBANY, June 28th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of 23rd instant has been received. I had anticipated your request by ordering the detachments from Washington, Essex, Clinton and Franklin Counties into service, and have fixed the days and places of their rendezvous. Upon application to the Quartermaster-Genl. I find that there are but 139 tents and 60 camp kettles at this place, and even those I take by a kind of stealth. The Deputy-Quartermaster-General declines giving an order for their delivery until he shall have a written order from the Quartermaster-Genl., and the latter is willing I should take them, but will not give the Deputy a written order for that purpose: under such circumstances I shall avail myself of the rule of possession, and by virtue of the eleven points of law send them off to-morrow morning without a written order from any one. You may remember that when you were Secretary of the War Department I invited you to forward and deposit in our frontier arsenals, arms, ammunition and camp equipage, free of expense, to be ready for defence in case of war, and the same invitation to the War Department has been repeated four times since. The United States have now from five to six hundred regular troops at Plattsburg, Rome, Canandaigua, &c., where those arsenals are, and yet those recruits are now and must be for weeks to come, unarmed and in every respect unequipped, although within musket shot of arsenals. The recruits at Plattsburg are within fifty miles of two tribes of Canadian Indians. In case of an attack upon the frontiers that portion of the United States army would be as inefficient and as unable to defend the inhabitants, or themselves even, as so many women.

The militia detachments on the western frontiers received the news of war with cheerfulness and determined courage, and I am happy to find that they are united like brothers, highly improved in discipline, and ready to devote themselves to any service or danger which the good of their country may require.

But they are in barracks, from which they cannot remove a day's march, for the want of tents and other equipage, and they are in separate and independent detachments without a general officer to command them or combine their exertions for the accomplishment of any desirable or important object.

The only officer of the United States here who can do anything

is the Quartermaster-General, and he has not a tent, campkettle or knapsack in the arsenal (except what I have concluded to send off to-morrow morning as above mentioned) to furnish me.

As to cannon, muskets, ammunition, I can find no one here who will exercise any authority over them or deliver a single article upon my requisition. Neither can I find any officer of the army who feels himself authorized to exercise any authority or do any act which will aid me in the all important object of protecting the inhabitants of our extended frontier, exposed to the cruelties of savages and the depredations of the enemy. If I must rely upon the militia solely for such protection I entreat you to give orders to your officers here to furnish upon my order for the use of the militia detachments all needful weapons and articles, with which the United States are supplied and of which we are destitute.

You may rely upon all the assistance which my talents, influence and authority can furnish in the prosecution of the just and necessary war which has been declared by the constituted authority of our beloved country.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

Governor D. D. Tompkins to De Witt Clinton.

ALBANY, June 29, 1812.

SIR,—I have just received an express from Canandaigua informing me that *Vosburgh* from this city was arrested on his return from Queenston in Canada, where he had been as an express with Foster's dispatches. Those dispatches were dated June 17, at Washington, and arrived in this city on Sunday morning, 21st June, from whence they were forwarded by Vosburgh as express. McTavish, of the house of Caldwell, Fraser & Co. of this city, a Mr. Hart and a certain Solomons were the persons concerned in this city. The Recorder has summoned them before him, and I am just informed that McTavish upon his examination has declared that he received the letters from Samuel Corp of your city and supposed them to be mercantile only. But Vosburgh declares in his affidavit, taken at Canandaigua, that the envelope sent from this city contained information of a declaration of war, and that Mr. Clark of Queenston, to whom he delivered it, so declared before he had opened the enclosed letter of Foster. I give you this information with respect to Mr. Corp that you as mayor of the City of New York may make enquiry into his conduct and participation in aiding and abetting, when he knew war was declared, the minister of the enemy in forwarding information thereof to the British garrisons to enable them to attack our troops unprepared and un-

advised of the event, if you should think such enquiry proper and likely to be beneficial.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. II, pp. 514-5, New York State Library.)

From the Federal Republican of Baltimore, Md., issue of 15th July, 1812.

The news of war reached the British at Fort George by express two days before it was received at our military station. General Brock arrived at Fort George on the 28th June. Several American gentlemen were there on a visit, who were treated very politely by the Governor and sent under protection of Captain Glegg, his aid, to Niagara with a flag. The news of war was very unwelcome on both sides of the river. They have been for six years in habits of friendly intercourse, connected by marriages and various relationships. Both sides were in consternation, the women and children were out on the banks of the river, while their fathers, husbands and sons were busily employed in arming. It was said Captain Glegg had a summons for the surrender of Fort Niagara, but this was contradicted by Captain Leonard, who said the message was simply to inquire whether he had any official notice of the war, and that he answered in the negative.

(File in New York Society Library, New York.)

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, 28th June, 1812.

M. G. O.

His Honor Major-General Brock has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments in the First Regiment of Lincoln Militia, viz:—

Captain Wm. Robertson to be Major, vice Muirhead, resigned.

Adjutant John Clark to be Lieut., vice John Secord, appointed to Major Merritt's troop of cavalry.

By order of the General.

J. MACDONELL, P. A. D. C.

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, 28th June, 1812.

Militia General Order.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ryerson will order all the arms formerly issued to the late First Regiment of Norfolk Militia to be delivered into his own. Such as are serviceable or can be rendered so he will retain and divide with Major Salmon of the Second Regiment. Such as are unserviceable and cannot be repaired in the London

District will be packed up in boxes and forwarded by the first safe opportunity to Fort Erie, where they will be delivered to the commanding officer at that post.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ryerson will at the same time direct the remains of the ammunition formerly issued to be delivered to him, and will order a board of survey to examine it—he will make a return of whatever is serviceable, specifying the exact quantity of each, also a return of the number of loose balls, powder, and cartridge paper will be forwarded to make the unserviceable cartridges.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ryerson will make a division of the serviceable ammunition with Major Salmon, and will transmit receipts in duplicate for the exact quantity which may be issued to each regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ryerson and Major Salmon will send a boat to Fort Erie with detachments of their respective regiments, commanded by intelligent officers, to receive the arms and ammunition forwarded to that post for them.

These detachments will be supplied with provisions on their arrival at Fort Erie, by application to the commanding officer of that post.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ryerson will give pointed orders to the officers commanding the detachments to be vigilant while employed in this service and to take every precaution against surprize.

Signed by order of His Honor Major-General Brock.

J. MACDONELL, P. A. D. C.

(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 8th July, 1812.)

BUFFALO, June 30, 1812.

On Saturday last, when the schooner *Commencement*, Captain Johnson, was lying off Buffalo Creek waiting a wind, two British armed row boats, fitted out at Fort Erie, put to sea and took the direction of the schooner. Meanwhile Johnson weighed anchor and stood out with a faint breeze, intending if the wind should increase to double Sturgeon Point, but by the time the schooner had beat 6 or 7 miles up the lake the breeze almost fell, and the boats came up with her and captured and towed her into port. The schooner belonged to Mr. Peter H. Colt, merchant at Black Rock, and was loaded with salt. There were forty men on board the boats and only three men and a boy on board the schooner. The crew of the *Commencement* were released on Sunday morning.

Mr. Frederick Miller of this town has been appointed Major-Commandant of the forces at Black Rock. Colonel Swift has taken

command at Lewiston. General Porter arrived in town on Saturday, and we understand immediately sent an express to Canandaigua to expedite with all possible despatch the arms and ammunition deposited in the arsenal at that place to Black Rock. Several companies of militia of General Hopkins's brigade have been ordered *en masse* to Black Rock.

The light infantry company of Captain Wells and militia company of Captain Hull are embodied and rendezvous in this village to protect the town.

(File in New York Society Library.)

From the New York Evening Post, Friday, 3rd July, 1812.

Extract of a letter from an intelligent gentleman in Albany to his friend in this city, dated July 1st, 1812:

In the postscript of one of my last letters to you I mentioned that an express had just arrived from the west and that it was rumored Fort Niagara had been taken by the British. This rumor is without the least foundation. The express proved to be the Governor's, giving him information against several persons in this city who, it was alleged, had been aiding the British in forwarding their despatches to Upper Canada, from which it appears they had the declaration of war one day earlier than our garrisons.

The express that carried the news was a cartman of this city, who was apprehended on his return, near Geneva, and is there lodged in jail. The persons said to have been implicated here have been examined and honorably acquitted, as they were concerned in a mere mercantile transaction.

From the Ontario Repository, printed at Canandaigua, June 30, 1812.

We learn that soon after receiving the news of the declaration of war at Canada a British boat captured an American vessel on Lake Erie belonging principally to Mr. Peter H. Colt, who was on board—that an American officer, Lieut. Gansevoort of Fort Niagara, with a sergeant who happened to be over the river at the time the news of war was received, were detained by the British.

An express reached town yesterday morning, which left the lines Sunday evening at 5 o'clock, with information that the British forces were assembling in considerable numbers near the river, and that their movements indicated a preparation to cross to the American shore. In consequence Major Mullany, the commanding officer at this place, immediately prepared his troops, about 200, and marched last evening for the frontier.

(File in the Wood Library, Canaudaigua, N. Y.)

From the National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., 11th July. 1812.

ALBANY, July 1, 1812.

An express arrived here on Monday [June 29] in 36 hours from Canandaigua, announcing to His Excellency the Governor the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Vosburgh of this city, who was suspected of having carried the despatch of Mr. Foster to the British commandant at Newark. In consequence of the disclosures of Vosburgh several persons of this city have undergone examination before Mr. Recorder Yates. As the object of the express may have been commercial, they have been admitted to bail. Circumstances, however, are dark.

(File in New York Society Library.)

General Amos Hall to General Porter.

BATAVIA, July 1st, 1812, 4 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—I just received your letter by express, requesting to forward on all the arms, &c., &c., that is to be had. About 600 men under the command of Genl. Wadsworth will march from this place to-morrow morning early.

I came to this place to give assistance to the march of the troops.

One regiment will cross Genesee River to-morrow from Ontario County. By Wednesday you will have at the two points of defence a formidable force.

20 of Capt. Pierson's troop are here in fine order and spirits.

It is not possible for me to come on, being totally unprepared.

All the arms are coming on, but on men's shoulders, and fine men they are.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Amos Hall to Governor Tompkins.

BATAVIA, July 1, 6 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—By a letter sent me by express from General Porter, dated at Black Rock July 1, 10 a. m., I learn that he has no doubt an attack is intended, although the exact time cannot be ascertained. He urges me to despatch an express to meet the artillery now on the way from Albany to have them travel day and night. He says "we are miserably deficient—we have men but no arms for them—we want artillery and men who know how to use them." I shall transcribe the following sentences from his letter and leave it to His Excellency to make the comment.

"I hope you will come out and take the command yourself under the present circumstances."

"The feeble force now on this frontier is not sufficient to inspire confidence, and families are moving back."

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VII., p. 297, New York State Library.)

From the Aurora of Philadelphia, July 11th, 1812.

GENEVA, N. Y., July 1st, 1812.

In consequence of an express to Major-General Hall, the 18th Regiment, composed of men detached from Brigadier-Generals Rhea's, Hopkins's and McClure's Brigades (one company excepted), commanded by Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Dobbin, and the 20th Regiment, composed of men detached from Brigadier-Generals Wadsworth, and Burnet's Brigades, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Peter Allen, are ordered to take the field immediately and march to the Niagara frontier. The United States troops, amounting to near 300, stationed at Canandaigua, marched on Monday for Niagara, under command of Major Mullany. Captain Abraham Dox's light infantry company of this village marched this day.

(File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)

John M. O'Connor to General Porter.

BATAVIA, July 1st, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—The troops under Major Mullany and the militia under Major-Genl. Hall leave this to-night at 2 o'clock for Lewiston and Niagara *direct.* We bro't on with us 400 stand extra arms which have been distributed to the militia here. Our force alone is 260, exclusive of 50 at Amsterdam and Black Rock (the escort), so that there will be about 800 in all. The militia are flocking in from the eastward, and in a very few days you will be able to muster on the banks of Niagara some thousands. But they are such troops as are not to be opposed to regulars in the open country, and you must remember that our men are but *recruits.* The appearance of this force will certainly prevent an attack on the fort if it arrives in season. Meantime, perhaps, it is *practicable* to make a feint at Black Rock by a great show and bustle and collecting of boats and rafts, which will have the effect of distracting the attention and dividing the forces of the enemy. They will not expect such a feint from militia.

I return, *(I believe)* to Canandaigua to take command of the district. As I don't think there will be any fighting for some time, I prefer going back in consequence of a difference of opinion which has arisen between myself and Major Mullany relative to putting a man under guard, who was mutinous. I confined the fellow (an Irishman) and the major ordered his release, tho' I demanded as a

right that he be kept confined till a general court-martial could be assembled. I informed him that the effect of such a course would necessarily prevent my issuing any order till the punishment of the individual, and intimated my intention of appealing to the Colonel or General.

He has so far consulted my feelings on this point as to give me the choice of going back and assuming the district command, which under present appearances I have preferred, especially as our men will return as soon as the eastern militia arrive.

I understand from Capt. McKeon that the artillery will shortly rendezvous at New York and the infantry at Albany.

Commodore Rogers is in pursuit of the Jamaica fleet, and report states his having taken 100 sail. A great many privateers are fitting out in the seaports.

P. S.—I was at Geneva when your express arrived; then I received orders by express to return and instantly rejoined the detachment.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Augustus Porter to General Peter B. Porter.

MANCHESTER, July 2d, 1812.

SIR,—The troops have come in in such numbers that all alarm here has ceased. I think the danger now is that we shall have too great a number. If it were possible to stop the common militia from coming on any more, and let Wadsworth come with his detachment of 1,000 and the regular troops, it would be best. I would, however, let Swift take the responsibility of ordering this. I now think the most important thing to be attended to is the sending to Genl. Hull an express, notifying him that provisions are on the lake but cannot be got up, and advise him to take his own measures to obtain supplies. I think it best to send off the *Contractor*, and for that purpose let her be got ready. I will see Swift to-day, and will be up to-morrow. I shall be under the absolute necessity of purchasing 1 or 200 bbls. of T. B. & Co. pork. Taylor should go after cattle as soon as possible. I send up the bearer after five or six head of cattle, and more, if you have obtained them from the Indians, as you expected I should go up to Black Rock to-day, but am obliged to prepare for troops which Col. Swift will send to-day to this place. I expect a large number will be sent here, as I can accommodate them with a number of empty houses and ropewalk. Do let your deputy send down all the camp kettles you can possibly obtain, the troops here are in want.

P. S.—I have no doubt the enemy have varied their notions of operations and that the attack on Niagara is abandoned, as two

companies came up yesterday, one of which has commenced a battery at Queenston and the other gone up the river.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, July 2nd, 1812.

D. G. O.—

The troops will be formed of four divisions, to be composed of regulars and militia as follows :—

1st or Right Division commanded by Capt. Derenzy, 41st Regt., to consist of a detachment of 41st Regt. 200
A detachment of militia 200
400

2 three-pounders.

2nd Division, Capt. Bullock, detachment 41st Regt. 100
Detachment of militia 200
300

2 six-pounders.

3rd Division, Capt. Chambers, detachment of 41st Regt. 100
Detachment of militia 200
300

2 three-pounders.

4th or Left Division, detachment 41st Regt 200
Detachment of militia 300
500

These divisions will be posted in the following manner, viz :—

First or Right Division at Fort Erie.
Second Division—Chippawa.
Third Division—Heights of Queenston.
Fourth or Left Division—Fort George.

The detachment of militia for the first division will be furnished by the 3rd Regiment of Lincoln militia, and will be commanded by ———

The detachment of militia for the second division will be furnished from the 2nd Regiment of Lincoln, and will be commanded by———

The detachment of militia for the third division will be com-

posed of the flank companies of the 5th and 6th Regiments of Lincoln, and will be commanded by Captain Hatt.

The detachment of militia for the fourth division will be composed of the flank companies of the 1st and 4th Regiments of Lincoln, and will be commanded by Lieut.-Col. Butler.

The first and second divisions will receive their orders from Lieut.-Colonel Clark—the third and fourth from Colonel Claus, to whom the said divisions will respectively report. Reports of all occurrences of consequence will at the same time be made to Major General Brock and to Colonel Procter.

Morning states will be regularly transmitted to Brigade Major Evans by Colonel Claus and Lieut.-Colonel Clark.

Officers commanding militia regiments will direct the officers of their respective corps not embodied to use every exertion to discipline the men under their command, and will have them in constant readiness to march to their respective posts on the shortest notice. They will at the same time give orders for their moving to the point attacked on the first alarm, without waiting for orders to that effect.

Colonel Procter will appoint the stations at the same time of the detachments of Light Dragoons, and will particularly direct that they shall not be detached from their posts except on urgent occasions.

James Muirhead, Esquire, is appointed surgeon to the militia forces and will be stationed at Chippawa, with the pay of ten shillings per diem and the usual allowances.

The officers commanding divisions will be allowed forage for one horse, furnishing the usual certificates.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, 2nd July, 1812.

Report has this instant been made to Major General Brock that the Americans on the opposite side of the river immediately below the Falls, have for these three days past much annoyed his centinels on this side by firing upon them, and in particular by twelve shots fired at them this day about one o'clock p. m. by people who came out of the woods, and who after firing immediately retired.

The Major-General has too high an opinion of the American army to suppose that such conduct could be tolerated even in a state of actual warfare. He therefore hopes that measures will immediately be taken to put a stop to a practice so contrary to the known rules established among civilized nations.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, July 2nd, 1812.

I received your letter last evening and beg leave to inform you that last week I sent on about 540 muskets to Canandaigua, making the supply at Canandaigua and Batavia 3,000; and this day an additional quantity of five hundred leaves this for Canandaigua. With the last parcel have gone fixed ammunition, powder, some camp kettles, tents, drums and fifes, knapsacks and cartridge paper; 250 muskets and some ammunition have also been forwarded to Steuben by Mr. Townsend. Cannon ball with some case, grape and canister, for three and six pounders, are also on their way to Canandaigua, with the exception of tents, of which there are none yet here; the preceding supply will be ample, with what Captain Leonard may have at the fort, for the protection of the Niagara frontier.

I hope you will exert yourself for the protection of the frontiers and amongst other things supply some arms and ammunition to the people south of Buffalo, in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus. We shall have our hands full, but I calculate upon the energy and bravery of the officers and soldiers of the western country for the efficient protection of the inhabitants of the frontiers until regular troops shall approach the lines. In all cases where your personal services, by proceeding with detachments to the frontier or otherwise will be useful go, and you shall receive Major-General's pay while out, but not rations.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

WM. PAULDING, Junior, Adjutant-General.

To Major-General Amos Hall.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, July 3d, 1812.

SIR,—I have been anxiously waiting for some days to receive Your Excellency's commands in regard to the measures most proper to be pursued on the present emergency. The accounts received first through a mercantile channel, and soon after repeated from various quarters, of war having been declared by the United States against Great Britain, would have justified in my opinion offensive operations, but the reflection that at Detroit and St. Joseph's the weak state of garrisons would prevent the commanders from attempting any essential service connected in any degree with their future security, and that my only means of annoyance on this communication was limited to the reduction of Fort Niagara, which

could be battered at any future period. I relinquished my original intention and attended only to defensive measures. My first object has been the calling out of the flank companies of militia, which has produced a force on this line of about 800 men. They turned out very cheerfully, but already show a spirit of impatience. The King's stores are now at such a low ebb that they can scarcely furnish any article of use or comfort. Blankets, haversacks and kettles are all to be purchased, and the troops in watching the banks of the river stand in the utmost need of tents. Mr. Couche has adopted the most efficient means to pay the militia in paper currency. I cannot positively say the number of militia that will be embodied, but they cannot throughout the Province be 4,000. The Americans are very active on the opposite side, in the erection of redoubts. We are not idle on our part, but unfortunately, having supplied Amherstburg with the guns that post required from Fort George, depending upon getting others from Kingston to supply their place, we find ourselves at this moment rather short of that essential arm. I have, however, every reason to think they are embarked on board the *Earl Moira*, which, according to Major McPherson's report, was to have sailed on the 20th ulto.

The Americans have, I believe, about 1,200 regulars and militia between Fort Niagara and Black Rock, and I consider myself at this moment perfectly safe against attempt they can make. About 100 Indians from the Grand River have attended to my summons; the remainder promise to come also, but I have too much reason to conclude that the Americans have been too successful in their endeavors to sow dissension and disaffection among them. It is a great object to get this fickle race interspersed among the troops. I should be unwilling in the event of a retreat to have three or four hundred of them hanging on my flanks. I shall probably have to sacrifice some money to gain them over. The appointment of some officers with salaries will be absolutely necessary.

The Americans make a daily parade of their force, and easily impose on the people on this side in regard to their numbers. I do not think they exceed 1,200, but they are represented infinitely more numerous. For the last fortnight every precaution has been taken to guard against the least communication, and to this day I am ignorant whether the President sanctioned the war resolutions of the two houses of Congress—that is, whether war be actually declared. The car brigade has been completed for service with horses belonging to gentlemen who spared them free of expense. I have not been honored with a line from Mr. Foster, nor, with all my endeavors, have I been able to obtain information of any consequence.

The *Prince Regent* made her first voyage this morning, and I propose sending her to Kingston to bring such articles as are absolutely necessary, which we know have arrived from Quebec. I trust she will outsail the *Oneida*.

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 115.)

The Quartermaster-General of Militia to Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, Commanding 2nd Lincoln Militia.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, July 3rd, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in answer to which I am to inform you that none of the articles required by you, excepting nails, are in store here.

The General has, however, ordered camp kettles and haversacks to be made, and as soon as they shall be brought in you shall be supplied with a proportion of each.

You are not to expect tents, and must endeavor to shelter your men in the adjacent houses, barns, &c. The General is constantly employed in devising means to relieve the wants of the militia and to render their situation in every respect as comfortable as his means will admit, and the commissariat have been and are actively engaged in the same pursuit. You must, however, be sensible of the impossibility of complying with all your requisitions.

Muirhead has been appointed to the Medical Department and will reside at Chippawa. He has been amply supplied with everything necessary in that department.

To-morrow is the 4th of July, and should recommend extraordinary vigilance—the enemy may wish to open the campaign by endeavoring to give a little *eclat* to that day.

(Signed.) THE QR. MAS'R-GENL, Militia.

Lieut.-Col. Clark, Comdg. 2nd Lincoln Militia.

Capt. Leonard to Major Adams.

FORT NIAGARA, July 3rd, 1812, 10 o'clock a. m.

DEAR SIR,—I have received yours, with the communication from Col. Porter. I would by all means recommend the detention of every man now present on the river. It would in my opinion have a bad effect on the troops coming on to allow the departure of an individual. Let troops come from the eastward only—organize them as they come on. Keep everything as at present, and we shall soon be able to do something which will make everything secure in this quarter.

(MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Amos Hall to Governor Tompkins.

BLOOMFIELD, July 4th, 1812.

SIR,—The troops now on the road to and at Black Rock will amount to nearly 2,800, three hundred of which are United States troops—this is the number who have been supplied with arms, &c. There was, on examining the arms and accoutrements, a great deficiency in cartridge boxes and flints. It was with difficulty that flints could be procured to furnish two to a firelock, and many of those very indifferent. I do not know the deficiency exactly in cartridge boxes, but I should imagine from the best account I could get that nearly one-third of the firelocks that have been delivered out were delivered without cartridge boxes. The greatest part of the firelocks were prime; some, however, were unfit for actual service—they appeared to be refuse arms.

Nearly 1,000 of the troops now in the field are militia called out on the spur of the occasion from General Rea's and Hopkins' brigades and cannot remain but a short time in the service. They have left their farms, their crops, their all, and will be ruined if they cannot soon return to their homes. The country is new, and most of those soldiers are dependent on their exertions to support their families and meet their engagements. But they are remarkably stout, able-bodied men, and I have no doubt would do their duty as soldiers were they to meet their enemy.

There had been no attack made by the enemy by the last accounts, but one was confidently expected.

The troops have neither tents nor camp equipage of any kind worth mentioning, and what they will do or how they will live is difficult to conjecture. Men taken from comfortable abodes and placed in the open fields with nothing but the heavens to cover them cannot endure for any considerable length of time so great a change. The disorders incident to camps thus formed of citizens will prove more fatal in one season that two campaigns of hard fighting. I hope that no time may be lost in forwarding a suitable number of tents and other camp equipage.

It is not in my power to inform Your Excellency the exact number of the enemy on the frontier at Niagara and Erie.

The number of regulars has been generally computed at 1500. But from some gentlemen with whom I have lately conversed direct from Canada the number is judged to be less, though a reinforcement from Lower Canada is undoubtedly on the way. The number is not ascertained—conjectures are from 1,000 to 1,500.

The whole number of regulars and militia now on the river from Fort George to Fort Erie and at those places, is estimated variously from 1,500 to 5,000.

By the best accounts I can get from gentlemen I have conversed from that quarter as late as Sunday last, 3,000 will be a large calculation. I expect to be more correctly advised in the course of to-morrow, probably by the mail which will pass within two hours.

2 o'clock, p. m. The mail has arrived and brings no new intelligence.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VII., pp. 330-2, New York State Library.)

Major Parmenio Adams to General Porter.

Your letter by the Indian, directed to Col. Swift, was received here last evening. I called a number of the officers and principal inhabitants together and had a council with the Tuscaroras, and we all assured them that in our opinion they were perfectly safe, and advised them to return with their families to their village. They appeared to be satisfied with our assurances, and I think will rest easy.

General Wadsworth staid four miles from this last night; will be in here in a few hours. It is not considered advisable to send any of the troops away that has already arrived until more arrive. Two hundred men can be accommodated at Schlosser: Judge Porter sent us word yesterday that that was the case. I think if that number was sent there it would be best. They could act either up or down the river, as occasion would require. The British have completed a battery above Queenston last night and are very busy this morning clearing off the trees.

Enclosed I send you Capt. Leonard's letter. You will see his opinion on the subject of assembling troops.

I refer you to Col. Swift, who will be able to give you every information.

Would it not be advisable for General Porter to come down and see General Wadsworth to consult on operations?

July 3d, 1812.

(MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Order.

Adjutant General's Office,
Niagara, 4 July, 1812.

Major-General Brock has witnessed with the highest satisfaction the orderly and regular conduct of such of the militia as have been called into actual service and their ardent desire to acquire military instruction. He is sensible that they are exposed to great privations, and every effort will be immediately made to supply their most pressing wants, but such are the circumstances of the

country that it is absolutely necessary that every inhabitant should have recourse to his own means to furnish himself with blankets and other necessaries.

The Major-General calls the serious attention of every militiaman to the efforts making by the enemy to destroy and lay waste this flourishing country. They must be sensible of the great stake they have to contend for, and will by their conduct convince the enemy that they are not desirous of bowing their necks to a foreign yoke. The Major-General is determined to devote his best energies to the defence of the country, and has no doubt that supported by the zeal, activity and determination of the loyal inhabitants of this Province, he will successfully repel every hostile attack and preserve to them inviolate all that they hold dear.

From the experience of the past the Major-General is convinced that should it be necessary to call forth a further proportion of the militia to aid their fellow-subjects in defence of the Province, they will come forward with equal alacrity to share the danger and the honor.

By command of the Major-General.

ÆNEAS SHAW, Adjt.-Genl. M.

General Return of Troops in Upper Canada.

4th July, 1812.

Royal Artillery—Senior officer, Capt. Holcroft, Fort George—Three officers, two sergeants, one trumpeter, 74 rank and file. Total 80

Tenth Royal Veteran Battalion—Major McPherson, Kingston—Sixteen officers, eight sergeants, two drummers, 170 rank and file. Total 196

41st Regiment—Colonel Procter, Amherstburg—Thirty-seven officers, 45 sergeants, 20 drummers, 912 rank and file. Total 1014

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—Major Heathcote, Kingston—Nineteen officers, 18 sergeants, 14 drummers, 317 rank and file. Total 368

1658

General Return of Troops in Lower Canada.

July 4th, 1812.

									Total.
Royal Artillery	14	officers,	7	sergeants,	7	drummers,	347	rank and file,	375
Royal Artillery Drivers	—	"	1	"	—		30	" "	31
Royal Engineers	3	"	—	"	—		—		3
10th Royal Veterans	24	"	23	"	7	"	309	" "	363
1st Battalion, 8th Regiment	39	"	55	"	22	"	946	" "	1062
41st Foot	—		—		—		2	" "	2
49th Foot	22	"	41	"	18	"	664	" "	745
100th Foot	24	"	31	"	20	"	479	" "	554
103rd Foot	25	"	36	"	20	"	700	" "	781
Canadian Fencibles	23	"	34	"	21	"	666	" "	744
Glengarry Light Infantry	31	"	35	"	22	"	435	" "	523
Canadian Voltigeurs	17	"	17	"	—		272	" "	306
									5489

D. Noon to General Porter.

Oswego, 4th July, 1812.

Dear Sir,—As soon as news of war being declared arrived at this place I immediately repaired to Sackett's Harbor, and General Brown, who commands that district, ordered me to prepare immediately at Massena, Hamilton, Ogdensburg, Gravelly Point, barracks, &c., to contain about four thousand men. I immediately started to Ogdensburg and the other places and made the necessary arrangements, and no doubt all will be ready in a few days, or as soon as troops can be marched to their respective stations. I have built barracks in the old fort at this place to contain about 700 men, which will probably be as many as will be stationed here.

P. S.—Your brother's vessels are safe at Ogdensburg, and Capt. Wolsy is doing all in his power to collect and arm vessels to carry them up to Sackett's Harbor with the assistance of Genl. Brown.

(MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Colonel Baynes to Major-General Brock.

Montreal, July 4, 1812.

Sir,—We have a report here of your having commenced operations by levelling the American fort at Niagara. The General is most anxious to hear good and recent intelligence from your quarter. There is no considerable assembly of troops in our neighborhood as yet. The flank companies, embodied under Colonel Young, are on their march, and the 2,000 militia will form a chain of posts from St. John's to La Prairie. The town militia of this and Quebec, to the amount of 3,000 in each city, have volunteered, being embodied and drilled, and will take their proportion of garrison duty to relieve the troops. The proclamation for declaring martial law is prepared and will be speedily issued. All aliens will be required to

take the oath of allegiance or immediately to quit the Province. Our cash is at its last issue, and a substitute of paper must per force be resorted to. This has been Sir George's principal object in calling the Legislature together. You have a very arduous and difficult card to play, and have our sincere and confident wishes for your success. Sir George strongly recommends extreme moderation in the use of the Indians, and to keep them in control as much as possible.

. . . . . .

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 196-7.)

Lord Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.

DOWNING STREET, 4th July, 1812.

No. 2.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

His Majesty's Government trust that you will be enabled to suspend with perfect safety all extraordinary preparations which you may have been induced to make in consequence of the precarious state of relations between this country and the United States, and as every specific requisition for warlike stores and accoutrements has been completed, with the exception of that for the clothing of the corps proposed to be raised from the Glengarry Emigrants, I have not thought it necessary to direct the preparation of any further supplies.

I conclude that in consequence of the instructions contained in Lord Liverpool's letter of the 30th March, that measures for the formation of that corps have been abandoned . . . . .

. . . . . .

(Canadian Archives, Q. 117-2, p. 185.)

Proclamation.

PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA.

By Isaac Brock, Esquire, President, administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces within our said Province.

To all whom these Presents shall come :—

GREETING,—

Whereas, on the seventeenth day of June last the Congress of the United States of America declared that war then existed between those States and their territories and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and whereas in pursuance of such declaration the subjects of the United

States have actually committed hostilities against the possessions of His Majesty; as President of His Majesty's Executive Council in the affairs of the Province, I do hereby strictly enjoin and require all His Majesty's liege subjects to be obedient to the lawful authorities, to forbear all communication with the enemy or persons residing within the territory of the United States, and to manifest their loyalty by a zealous co-operation with His Majesty's armed force in defence of the Province and repulse of the enemy. And I do further require and command all officers, civil and military, to be vigilant in the discharge of their duty, especially to prevent all communication with the enemy, and to cause all persons suspected of traitorous intercourse to be apprehended and treated according to law.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at York, in the Province of Upper Canada, this sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and in the fifty-second of His Majesty's reign.

ISAAC BROCK, President.

By command of His Honor.
WILLIAM JARVIS, Secretary.

Brigadier-General Wm. Wadsworth to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, July 6, 1812.

SIR,—Since writing from Genesee and putting part of the detachment ordered out on the march, I came on to this place and have visited Fort Niagara. The fort is very much decayed. There is now at the fort six pieces (six-pounders) mounted. They can be used only in the fort, for want of horses and harness. There are four howitzers and two mortars, neither of them mounted. There are no shells to make use of even were they mounted. Amongst every other difficulty to be surmounted there is no one appears more serious than the want of ammunition.

The store on hand may be considered about 3,600 of powder, and shot in proportion, together with about 16 boxes of musket cartridges and distributed nearly in the following manner:—At Fort Niagara, thirty cwt. powder, and the remaining 600, a part at this place and part at Black Rock; the boxes of cartridges are at the several places of rendezvous. Four field pieces have been ordered in from Ontario; two are at this place and two at Black Rock. To make them useful it will be necessary to have horses for moving them.

The arms that were drawn by Lieut.-Colonel Swift are many of them unfit for service. They will be inspected very soon, when

it will be known how many of them are fit for use. The detachment from Ontario County will be here this morning. The detachments from Genesee and Niagara are principally out, and will be organized under Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin.

When the several detachments that are ordered out are inspected there will probably be the following number and organized in the following manner:

Under Lieut.-Colonel Swift		400
" " " Allen		400
" " " Dobbin		300
		1100
Absent	336	
Sick	20	
Dead	4	
	360	360
		1460

The detachments when made, to which the above officers were assigned, was as follows:—

Lieut.-Colonel Swift	600
" " Allen	510
" " Dobbin	350
	1460

There are in the fort under Captain Leonard 150, and on the 4th inst. were marched in by Major Mullany of the United States army, his corps of about 250, making in the fort 400, together with 1100 detached militia, making in the whole 1500 now for duty on the frontier. There has been considerable sickness in Lieut.-Col. Swift's regiment.

Having duly considered the importance of procuring harness for the field pieces in the fort and having horses to move them as well as to exercise the four pieces in the field, I shall request General Peter B. Porter to procure the harness as soon as necessary and to purchase twenty horses, which will be only the one-half that will be requisite for the use of the ten pieces, that is to say, six from the fort and four now in the field. As for procuring a further number, under the existing circumstances I shall wait your order.

It may hereafter be thought advisable to take the pieces now in the fort to the field: if so a further number of twenty horses more will be required.

The preparations on the opposite side of the river are very considerable. Between Lake Ontario and Fort George there are three breastworks hove up, between Fort George and Queenston there are two, and south of Queenston on the north side of the mountain they have one. With the naked eye it appears strong, built of stone and will probably mount two or three pieces. Those between the lake and Fort George mount seven or eight pieces, part twelve and part six-pounders. Those in Fort George Captain Leonard says are twelve-pounders.

The circumstance of there being but 30 cwt. of powder for the use of the fort is very unpleasant, for in case of an attack from Fort George on our fort Captain Leonard could make but about one hour's defence, for the powder would be wasted and a retreat would then be necessary. This further shows the importance of having horses and harness prepared to move the pieces in the fort to the field, as well as to have them for defence.

Two regiments of militia, one from Genesee, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Daniel Davis, and one from Niagara County, when notified of the importance of having additional strength on the line, very promptly appeared with haste to the field. Lieut.-Colonel Daniel Davis's regiment appeared fuller than at any former call.

The call of the regiment was undoubtedly justifiable from an appearance on the opposite side of the river. There is yet considerable appearance of their determination to act offensively.

It is a cause of much regret that there are no tents, camp kettles or any description of camp equipage now in this quarter.

The dissatisfaction of the two regiments of militia is not to be surmounted in any other way than to dismiss them to save the disagreeable necessity of their dispersing without permission. They were called out at a moment's notice, and could make no preparation for themselves and they found very little made for them. They were able to draw but little bread, and to draw flour seemed useless, for they had not any utensils to cook it in. Such pails and kettles as were to be had were purchased, but in the distribution there was not one to a company. From such information as I am able to collect from intercepted letters and other ways, I have much reason to believe our enemy have three thousand men now in the field and one thousand more subject to a very short call, exclusive of three hundred Indians, said to be armed complete.

Their strength taken into consideration, when it being the probability that they will make an attack, I cannot consider myself justified in saying that the river will be sufficiently guarded unless there are three thousand men placed between the lake and the mountain and one thousand from the mountain to Buffalo. Taking

this number for the standard, it will require 2,500 men to make such a resistance as prudence might dictate and to cease the prevailing opinion in Genesee and Niagara Counties that they are in danger.

I would renew my assurances of a determination to persevere and leave nothing undone that is in my power to do.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VII., pp. 343-7, New York State Library.)

From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, July 15.

CANANDAIGUA, July 7, 1812.

Of the force which the British have on the Niagara, various accounts are given. The number of regular troops is probably not far from 1500—of militia ready for service about 3000. With respect to the Indians which are said to have joined them, their numbers are stated by different reports from 150 to 1000. We have reason to believe it would approach nearer the fact to say there were none.

General Brock, Governor of Upper Canada, commands in person.

Nothing momentous had occurred at the last dates. The vessel of Mr. Colt, mentioned in our last as being captured by the British, had been restored and Lieut. Gansevoort, who was in their power when the news of war being declared was received, has been suffered to return to the American garrison.

The apprehension that a descent would be made by the British with a view to take the American garrison, Fort Niagara, has subsided. Had they contemplated its capture they would have done it before we increased our forces in its neighborhood.

We understand that Fort Niagara is in a decayed state, with only six pieces of cannon and 120 men. We do not know the number of men stationed on the river from Black Rock to the fort, probably there are 300 regulars and 1500 or 2000 militia.

(File in New York Society Library.)

From the Aurora of Philadelphia, July 18th, 1812.

CANANDAIGUA, July 7.—A number of waggons of warlike stores and several companies of drafted and volunteer militia left this town last week for the frontiers, among them Captain A. Dox's infantry, Captain Stanley's riflemen and Captains Bogert's and Hart's militia.

Major General Hall has put in requisition the whole militia of his division to march when wanted.

(File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)

PUBLIC SPEECHES.

Public speeches delivered at the Village of Buffalo on the 6th and 8th days of July by Hon. Erastus Granger, Indian Agent, and Red Jacket, one of the principal chiefs and speakers of the Seneca Nation, respecting the part the Six Nations would take in the present war against Great Britain.

BUFFALO.

Printed and sold by S. H. & H. A. Salisbury; sold also at the Canandaigua and Geneva book stores.

1812.

SPEECHES.

[This Council was convened at the request of the Hon. E. Granger, Esq., Indian Agent. The sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations of Indians, residing in the United States, were present.]

MONDAY, July 6, 1812.

Red Jacket,

Addressing himself to the Agent, spoke as follows:

BROTHER,—We are glad of having an opportunity once more of meeting you in council. We thank the Great Spirit that has again brought us together. This is a full meeting. All our head men are present. Every village is represented in this council. We are pleased to find Mr. Parrish, our interpreter, is present. He has attended all our councils since the last war, and is well acquainted with all the treaties we have made with the United States.

The voice of war has reached our ears and made our minds gloomy. We now wish you to communicate to us everything which your Government has charged you to tell us concerning this war. We shall listen with attention to what you have to say.

Mr. Granger's Speech.

Brothers of the Six Nations:—

I am happy to behold so many of you assembled together at this time. I observe that the chiefs of the Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora Nations, and some of the Delawares are present. The Mohawks who live in Canada are not represented, and the Oneidas, living at a distance, could not attend. Brothers, you will now listen to what I say.

At the close of the Revolutionary war the United States held a treaty with the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix. They restored to you the country of land which they had conquered from you and the British and set you down once more on your old seats. Several

treaties have since been made with you, but that which particularly binds us together was made at Canadaigua about sixteen years since.

The chain of friendship then formed has been kept bright until this time.

In this great length of time nothing material has happened to disturb the peace and harmony subsisting between us. Any momentary interruptions of peace which have taken place have been happily settled without injury to either party. Our friendship has remained unbroken.

BROTHERS,—The prosperity and happiness of the Six Nations have always been objects which the United States have had in view.

You have enjoyed with us all the blessings which the country afforded, consistent with your mode and habits of living. We have grown up together on this great island. The United States are strong and powerful; you are few in numbers and weak, but as our friends we consider you and your women and children under our protection.

BROTHERS,—You have heretofore been told that the conduct of Great Britain towards us might eventually lead to war. That event has at length taken place. War now exists between the United States and the British Nation. The injuries we have received from the British have at length forced us into a war.

I will now proceed to state to you the reasons why we have been compelled to take up arms.

For a number of years past the British and French who live on the other side of the great waters have been at war with each other, shedding each other's blood. These nations wished us to take a part in their war. France wished us to fight against Great Britain. Great Britain wanted us to join against France. But the United States did not wish to take any part in their quarrels. Our object was to live in peace and trade with both nations. Notwithstanding our endeavors to maintain friendship with them, both France and Great Britain have broken their treaties with us. They have taken our vessels and property and refused to restore them or make compensation for the losses we have sustained.

But the British have done us the greatest injury. They have taken out of our vessels at least six thousand of our own people, put them on board their ships of war and compelled them to fight their battles. In this situation our friends and connexions are confined, obliged to fight for the British.

BROTHERS,—If you consider the situation in which we are placed, you cannot blame us for going to war. I will ask you a

question. Suppose that the Mohawk Nation, who live in Canada, were at war with a nation of Indians at the westward. Both of these nations being your friends, you were determined to take no part in their disputes, but to be at peace with both—to visit them and trade with them as usual. In consequence of this determination, you should send messages with speeches to inform them of the system you had adopted. But the Mohawks, not satisfied in seeing you in prosperity, enjoying the blessings of peace, visiting and trading with them—determine to make you feel the evils of war unless you agree to give up all intercourse with those they are at war with. This you cannot consent to; you want the privilege of selling your furs and skins where you can find the best market. The Mohawks still continue to flatter you—say they are your friends—put on smiling faces and speak good words. But in the meantime, while professing friendship towards you, they fall upon your hunting and trading parties as they travel back and forth—strip them of their property—leave them naked in the world and refuse to make satisfaction. Not only this, but they come near your village and there murder your people—others they take when found from home, bind them fast and compel them to go and fight their battles.

Brothers,—Could you for a moment submit to such treatment? Would you not all as one rise from your seats and let the enemy feel your vengeance? If you are warriors, if you are brave men, you certainly would. What I have stated is exactly our case. The British have done us all these injuries and still continue to do us wrong without a cause. The United States have risen from their seats—they have raised their strong arm and will cause it to be felt.

Brothers,—I feel it my duty at this present time to point out to you the straight path in which you ought to walk. You well recollect the advice given you by the people of the United States at the commencement of the Revolutionary war against Great Britain. You were then requested to stay at home—to sit upon your seats at your own council fires and to take no part in the war.

It would have been happy for you had you followed this good advice. But the presents and fair speeches of the British poisoned your minds. You took up the hatchet against us and became our enemies. At the close of the war with Britain (the event you well know) the United States had it in their power to have cut you off as a people, but they took pity on you and let you return to your former seats.

Your Great Father, the President of the Seventeen Fires, now gives his Red Children the same advice that was given you at the

beginning of the last war; that is—*That you take no part in the quarrels of the white people.* He stands in no need of your assistance. His warriors are numerous, like the sand on the shores of the great lakes which cannot be counted. He is able to fight his own battles, and requests you to stay at home, cultivate your fields and take care of your property. If you have any regard for your women and children—if you have any respect for the country in whose soil repose the bones of your fathers—you will listen to his advice and keep bright the chain of friendship between us.

You have been invited to join the British in this war. Reflect for a moment on the consequence of complying with their request. You will lose your property in the United States. We shall soon take possession of Canada. They will have no land to sit you down upon. You will have nothing to expect from our mercy. You will deservedly as a people be cut off from the face of the earth.

The late delegation which you sent to Canada was told that they ought not to put any confidence in the United States—that if you did we should deceive you—that the United States kept no promises made to Indians.

Brothers,—I now ask in what have the United States deceived you? Have they not punctually paid your annuities as they became due? Have not the Senecas received annually the interest of their money in the public funds? Has not the State of New York honestly fulfilled her engagements with the Oneidas, Onondagas and Cayugas? Have not the Tuscaroras been assisted in the sale of their property in North Carolina and in obtaining a pleasant seat purchased of the Holland Land Company? I again ask, have not the United States observed good faith towards you? Have they deceived you in any one thing? I answer, they have not.

Knowing as you do that we are your friends, will you act like children and suffer yourselves to be imposed upon at this time by our enemies?

Brothers,—It was our wish that the Six Nations should all be agreed as one man, but the Mohawks and some few others living on the British side, have been so foolish as to declare in favor of war. The good advice you lately gave them has not been attended to. They are now at Newark in arms against the United States. I am sorry they have not listened to good counsel. You, however, have done your duty and you are not to blame for their folly. They will soon find they have done wrong and must suffer the consequence.

Brothers,—Continue to listen.

You have been frequently told, that in case we went to war, we did not want your assistance. The same thing has this day been repeated. But I find some of your young men are restless and

uneasy. They wish to be with our warriors and I am sensible the Chiefs have not power to control them. As I observed before, we want not their aid, but we believe it to be better for them to be our friends than our enemies.

If they will not be contented to stay at home but must see something of a war, perhaps 150 or 200 will be permitted to stand by the side of our warriors and receive the same pay and provisions which our soldiers receive.

If they should be permitted to join our troops they must conform to our regulations. Your mode of carrying on war is different from ours. We never attack and make war upon women and children, nor on those who are peaceably inclined and have nothing to defend themselves with. Such conduct we consider as cowardly and not becoming a warrior.

BROTHERS,—If you have not sufficient time this evening to deliberate on what I have said, I will meet you to-morrow or next day, and receive your answer.

Red Jacket's Answer to Mr. Granger's Speech.

WEDNESDAY, July 8, 1812.

BROTHER,—We are now prepared to give an answer to the speech you delivered to us in council the other day. We are happy to find so many of the *white* people present. We are not accustomed to transact important business in the DARK! We are willing that the *light* should shine upon whatever we do. When we speak we do it with sincerity and in a manner that cannot be misunderstood.

You have been appointed by the United States an agent for the Six Nations. We have been requested to make you acquainted with the sentiments of those nations we represent. None of the Mohawks, Oneidas, or Cayugas, it is well known, are present. The number of treaties that has passed between the Six Nations and the United States appears to be fresh in your memory. We shall only mention to you some things that were agreed upon in the treaty made at Canandaigua.

We were a long time in forming that treaty, but we at length made up our minds and spoke freely. Mr. Pickering, who was then agent for the United States, declared to us that no breach should ever be made in that treaty. We replied to him, "If it should ever be broken, you will be the first to do it. We are weak. You are strong. You are a great people. You can if you are so disposed place yourselves under it and overturn it, or, by getting upon it you can crush it with your weight." Mr. Pickering again declared that this treaty would ever remain firm and unshaken, that it would be as durable as the largest rock to be found in our country.

This treaty was afterwards shown to Gen. Washington. He said that he was satisfied and pleased with what the agent had done. He told us that no treaty could be formed that would be more binding. He then presented us with a chain which he assured us would never rust, but always remain bright. Upon this belt of wampum, (holding up a belt of wampum curiously wrought) he placed a silver seal [upon which an eagle was engraved, representing the United States.] This belt we always have and wish to look upon as sacred.

In the treaty it was agreed that the Six Nations should receive a small annuity, to show the intention of the United States to continue friendly with them. This has been complied with. It was also agreed that if any injury or damage should be done on either side satisfaction should be made to the party injured. We were a long time in conference before we could make up our minds upon one article of the treaty—what punishment should be inflicted for the crime of murder? Mr. Pickering said that it should be *hanging*. We told him that would never do—that if a white man killed an Indian, the Indians would not be permitted to hang the white man —the sacrifice would be considered too great for killing an Indian. We at length agreed that conciliatory measures should be resorted to, such as would give satisfaction to all parties.

In cases of theft as in stealing horses, cattle, &c., it was agreed that restitution should be made. In this article the whites have transgressed twice where the Indians have once. As often as you will mention one instance in which we have wronged you, we will tell you of two in which you have defrauded us!

I have related these articles of the treaty to show you that it still remains clear in our recollection, and we now declare to you, in presence of all here assembled, that we will continue to hold fast the chain which counsels us together. Some who first took hold of it are gone, but others will supply their place.

We regret extremely that any disturbance should have taken place among the white people. Mischief has commenced. We are now told that war has been declared against Great Britain; the reasons for it are unknown to us. The Six Nations are placed in an unpleasant situation. A part of them are in Canada and the remainder in the United States.

Whilst we were endeavoring to persuade those who live in Canada to remain peaceable and quiet, the noise of war suddenly sounded in our ears. We were told that all communication between us and them would be prevented. We have since heard that they have taken up arms. We are very sorry to hear of this. They are our brothers and relations, and we do not wish that their blood

should be spilt when there is so little occasion for it. We hope that the passage is not so closely stopped but that a small door may still be open, by which we may again have an opportunity of seeing our brothers and of convincing them to take no part in a war in which they have nothing to gain.

We know the feelings of the greatest portion of them. We therefore believe that if we have another opportunity we can persuade them to have nothing to do with this war. Our minds are fully made up on this subject, and we repeat that it is our wish to see them once more and to give them our advice about the path they ought to travel.

You (Mr. Parrish) are going to the eastward. You will visit the Oneidas and Cayugas. Relate to them faithfully what has taken place in this council; tell them all we have said, and request that a deputation of their chiefs may be sent to attend our council here. We wish that you would return with them.

[He then brought forward the belt which he had before held up in his hand, and requested Mr. Granger and the others present to look at it and observe whether it was not the one that had been presented to the Six Nations by Gen. Washington.

Red Jacket then held up another belt, much larger, of different colors, which appeared to be very ancient. He continued.]

BROTHER,—I will now state to you the meaning of this belt. A long time ago the Six Nations had formed a union. They had no means of writing their treaties on paper and of preserving them in the manner the white people do. We therefore made this belt, which shows that the Six Nations have bound themselves firmly together; that it is their determination to remain united; that they will never do anything contrary to the interests of the whole, but that they will always act towards each other like brothers.

Whenever for the future you see a small number of our people meeting together to consult about any matter of trifling account, we desire that you would pay no attention to it. It may give you uneasiness, when we have no intention to injure you. This happened but a few days ago. It seems that a white man and two or three Indians living on the same creek had a small conversation, which the mischievous talked about until the whole country was in an uproar, and many families left their country and homes in consequence.

The council held some time since at Batavia was unauthorized by us, and we now declare to you that none have a right to hold council anywhere except at this place, around the great council fire of the Six Nations.

We hope that you will not accept of any of our warriors unless

they are permitted by our great council to offer themselves to you. And we should be sorry, indeed, if any of the whites should entice our young warriors to take up arms. We mention these things to show you that we wish to guard against everything that may interrupt our good understanding.

BROTHER,—We hope that what has been said will be generally known to the white people. Let every one recollect and give a faithful account of it. We wish them to know that we are peaceably disposed towards the United States, and that we are determined to keep bright the chain of friendship that we formed with them at Canandaigua.

BROTHER,—We have one thing more to which we would wish to call your attention. We present you the papers (handing to the agent a small bundle of papers), which secure to us our annuities from the U. States. We would be glad to know if this war would affect our interests in that quarter. We also desire that you would inform us whether the monies we have deposited in the [late] bank of the United States will be less secure than if this war had not taken place.

Reply of the Agent.

Mr. Granger, after thanking them for their general and punctual attendance, replied as follows :—

BROTHERS,—You have this day brought forward the large white belt given you at Canandaigua. Your speaker has explained the leading particulars of the treaty made at that time. I am much pleased to find your minds so deeply impressed with them. I now repeat to you that the United States will on their part hold fast to the treaty ; they wish you to do the same. Should it be broken on your part, the United States will no longer consider themselves bound by it.

BROTHERS,—It appears that you are still desirous of sending to Grand River to endeavor to prevail on your brethren in that quarter to remain at peace. An undertaking of this kind will be of little use. They will only fill your heads with idle talk, and poison your minds against the United States. Perhaps after crossing Niagara River you will not be permitted to go any further. Should you, however, insist upon it, permission will be granted to four or five of your chiefs to go over, with such instructions as you shall think proper to give them.

But should your young men cross over and join our enemies, they must never expect to be allowed to set their feet on our shores again as friends. Rest assured they will be severely punished for it.

With respect to the property you have placed in the hands of

the United States you have nothing to fear, it will be fully as secure as if this war had not happened. Your annuities will be paid to you as formerly and your bank stock be as productive as usual.

I now return you my thanks for the good attendance you have given at this council. I feel pleased that you have again come forward and renewed the covenant of friendship, that you have once more declared your steady attachment to the United States.

Your friend, Mr. Parrish, will soon go to the eastward, where he will see such of your brethren as were not present at this council. In a short time he will return and remain here if he should be wanted through the summer.

[In consequence of the permission of the agent several of the chiefs repaired to Lewiston for the purpose of crossing. Application was made to General Brock (who has the command of the troops in the Upper Province) that they might be suffered to land on the Canada shore. After two days General Brock sent them word that two of their chiefs would be permitted to come over and converse for a few minutes with such of the chiefs belonging to Canada as would be authorized to meet them. They accordingly went over, and after a few minutes' conversation with some of the Canadian chiefs, without effecting their object, they were ordered to return.]

Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.

MONTREAL, July 7, 1812.

SIR,—It was only on my arrival at Montreal that I received Mr. Foster's notification of the Congress of the United States having declared war against Great Britain. The fact had been previously ascertained through mercantile channels.

I am convinced you have acted wisely in abstaining from offensive operations, which in their effect might have united a people governed by public opinion, and among whom too much division exists at this moment to admit of its influence in promoting vigorous measures against us.

The manner of the flank companies of militia turning out must have been very satisfactory to you. I hope your supplies of ordnance and ordnance stores on their way from Kingston have arrived safe.

I have caused arms, accoutrements and ammunition to be forwarded for the use of the Cornwall, Stormont and Dundas battalions of militia. Camp equipage for 500 men shall be sent to you as soon as possible, together with muskets.

We are on the eve of substituting paper for bullion. I am

aware of the Canadian prejudice against such a circulating medium, but it must give way to the imperious necessity of the times.

It is highly proper you should secure the services of the Indians, but restrain and control them as much as you can. Whatever appointments you deem indispensably necessary you are authorized to make, as well as the sacrifice of some money to gain them over. It is proper we should maintain our ascendency over the Indians and feed with proper food their predilection for us.

Colonel Lethbridge, an inspecting field officer, is under orders for Kingston, and there to wait your commands.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 198-9.)

From the Independent Chronicle, of Boston, 20th July, 1812.

ONONDAGA VALLEY, July 8th.

Since the declaration of war everything goes on briskly in these western wilds. There are already 3,000 troops at Niagara from the counties of Genesee, Steuben, Chautauqua and Niagara. Monday last a considerable number of waggons passed through here loaded with arms, ammunition and shovels.

(From file in Lenox Library, New York.)

Colonel Baynes to Major-General Brock.

MONTREAL, July 8, 1812.

SIR,—I was highly gratified yesterday in receiving your letters of the 3rd July, for we have felt extremely anxious about you ever since we have learnt the unexpected declaration of war, which has been so long threatened that no one believed it would ever seriously take place, and even now it is the prevailing opinion that from the opposition testified by the Eastern States offensive measures are not likely to be speedily adopted against this country. Sir George is inclined to let these sentiments take their course, and as little advantage would accrue by more active measures on our part our present plans are all defensive. General De Rottenburg is arrived and the flank companies embodied are on their way. This corps, with the embodied militia, will form a chain from La Prairie to St. Johns, with a light corps advanced in their front. We have reports of the 103rd regiment being in the river and, it is added, recruits for the 100th Regiment.

Sir George has had applications from so many quarters for militia below Kingston that, to ensure a general arrangement and to adopt the best system that circumstances will admit, he has directed Colonel Lethbridge, the Inspecting Field Officer here, to proceed through the line of settlements to see the several colonels

and corps of militia so as to fix their quotas, and afterwards to proceed to Kingston and assume the command of that post, if necessary. He will be placed under your orders, but you will perhaps not wish to bring him in contact with the 41st Regiment, as he is senior to Colonel Procter.

Sir George desires me to say that he does not attempt to prescribe specific rules for your guidance. They must be directed by your discretion and the circumstances of the time; the present order of the day with him is forbearance until hostilities are more decidedly marked.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 199-200).

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 9th July, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The following proportion of officers and non-commissioned officers will be entitled to receive pay and allowances:

ESTABLISHMENT.

	Capt.	*Sub.*	*Sergts.*
For every company embodied for service, consisting of 30 rank and file	1	2	2
For Do., consisting of 45 men and not exceeding 80	1	2	3
For Do., consisting of 80 men and upwards	1	3	4

For every 250 men one field officer will be allowed, and so in proportion.

The difference of pay between a subaltern and an adjutant will be allowed for every 200 men. A paymaster will be appointed for the District of Niagara, who will muster on the 23d or 24th of every month all the corps stationed between Niagara and Lake Erie. Pay lists are to be certified on oath by the captains of companies, and commanding officers of posts (whether of the line or militia) will examine and certify their belief as to the correctness of the accompt.

By order of Major-Genl. Brock.

THOS. EVANS, B. M.

MEMORANDUM.

In consequence of the above order the circular letter from His Honor the President to officers commanding regiments, dated 8th April, 1812, is rescinded, and officers commanding regiments are directed to transmit to headquarters an account of the actual expenses that have been incurred under it.

General Wadsworth to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 8th July, 1812.

SIR,—Since my last of the 5th inst., the unremitted exertions of our opponents in heaving up breastworks is daily to be seen. Not having had any communication across the river since the 5th inst., I cannot relate anything in respect to the strength they may gain, but every operation of theirs since the 5th inst. seems to concur in adding to the belief that there are a large body of men near the frontier, at least as many as was calculated in my letter of the 5th inst,—three thousand near the line and one thousand subject to a moment's call. Our shore must be considered unsafe until we have at least four thousand troops on the line, and would recommend five hundred more, with a view of taking possession of Grand Island. A party of soldiers and Indians seem to be making a drift that way, seemingly with an intention to carry on a correspondence in that quarter with this side or take possession of the island themselves, more particularly to carry on with greater ease a correspondence that is already suspected. The great length of the river that must be guarded requires a great number of soldiers.

From every appearance at present I think myself justified in recommending the number above to be placed on the margin of this river.

I desire that you duly consider what 1500 men can do in opposition to our opponents on a river of the length of the Niagara from Lake Ontario to Buffalo, whose margin is principally covered with timber and bushes.

If it is your pleasure I must express to you my anxiety for the immediate support of some or all of the number proposed.

To be attacked would not be more than I have reason to expect for the last twenty four hours. I believe it is only owing to want of information of our real situation why we have not been attacked before this time.

The accommodation for the troops in this quarter is much to be lamented. Every preparation is making that can be made without axes, hoes, spades, shovels or anything of the kind.

I hope, sir, my zeal for the honor of our arms and for the comfort of the men under my command will be a sufficient excuse for pressing on Your Excellency the importance of forwarding ammunition, and camp equipage is indispensably necessary, and in case of an action our ammunition would all be wasted and we be left in a deplorable condition.

The soldiers that have last arrived on the frontier are very much worn down with the fatigue of their march and the duty since required of them.

In the event of your sending the reinforcement proposed I would recommend the sending the further number of ten pieces of artillery, as they will be the only implements that will have an effect across the river.

Among the ammunition would recommend grape shot, to be made use of in the event of their attempting to cross the river.

(Tompkins Papers, vol., VII., pp. 373-5, New York State Library.)

From the National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., 25th July, 1812.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Fort Niagara to his friend in this city, dated July 8th:

This garrison and all my property at this place have been in the most imminent danger. I expected every moment that it would be destroyed and myself ruined. The British had the means to lay the whole place in ashes, whilst we were entirely destitute of men, cannon, ammunition and everything else. This danger is not now past, but our prospect of security is more clear than it was last week. This frontier has been in a state of alarm and confusion for almost two weeks past. No business has been done except moving goods and property to places of safety.

(From File in the New York Society Library.)

General Peter B. Porter to Governor Tompkins.

Black Rock, July 9, 1812.

Sir,—I have just returned from Niagara and Lewiston, where I spent two or three days with General Wadsworth. The ordinary militia, who repaired to this frontier in great numbers and with promptitude that has done them great credit, are now mostly dismissed and have returned to their homes, their places being supplied by the detached militia, most of whom have arrived and the remainder coming in daily. Our force when organized a day or two hence will consist of the detached or drafted militia, about 1,500; Colonel Swift's regiment of volunteers, about 550; the regular troops at Niagara fort, about 450, and a few men of the ordinary militia, say 100, who are about to volunteer under the act of the sixth of February, making in the whole about 2,500 men. This force, raw as it is, with only a few pieces of light artillery, and not more than one company (Captain Leonard's) who know anything about artillery, is in my opinion barely sufficient for the protection of this river against a greater number of men with a full supply of heavy ordnance and a powerful train of field artillery managed by experienced troops. I shall not be surprised if the British were to make an attack on us even now, as they know our real strength.

They have on the river from Newark to Fort Erie, inclusive, according to the best information we can get, (and most of the people who cross the river concur substantially in the estimate), from 9 to 1,200 regulars, from 2,000 to 2,500 militia, and about 250 or 300 Indian warriors, making in all about 3,600 men. Such, however, is said to be the disaffection among the militia that no reliance can be placed on them for an attack or perhaps for defence. Our standard once planted on their shore, and supported by a respectable force, I have no doubt that most of the inhabitants would seek protection under it.

I cannot avoid repeating to Your Excellency the opinion I have heretofore expressed, that under present circumstances the policy, interest and quiet of this State and the United States require that no time should be lost in preparing for the invasion of Canada at this point as well as other places. For this purpose we want in the first place artillery of different descriptions, and in the next, men who know how to use it. Our force now on the river, amounting to about 2500 men, improved by a rigid discipline for six or eight weeks to come, with the addition of 2500 regular troops, consisting of a due proportion of artillerists, might pass over the river and subdue the peninsula opposite here, which is the heart of Upper Canada. Our army should also at the same time be prepared to pass the St. Lawrence river below Lake Ontario, to prevent them from concentrating the whole of their force at this point. A general of experience and ability would of course be required to conduct the enterprise. We regret that we have neither had men nor other means to justify any attempt to pass the river; 2,500 men well provided with arms and ammunition might at the first moment have accomplished what will now require double the number. Would it not be well to commence building 50 or 60 boats? I have ventured already to build four, which are indispensable for ordinary uses. The village at the Falls is a place peculiarly fitted for this business. There is plenty of good timber, a saw mill, pitch, oakum, &c., and fine quarters for men. A few ship carpenters, who could be engaged here, and the artificers belonging to the troops, would build them in a few days. The boats there would be perfectly safe as respects the enemy, and could be put into the water above or below the falls.

The troops, who have been thus suddenly and unexpectedly thrown upon the frontier, have subjected me to many serious difficulties and embarrassments and to a heavy responsibility. They have depended on me for almost everything, and it was necessary they should be supplied, having brought with them no means of subsistence for themselves. I am sure that I have acted with a due

regard for economy. The detached militia (part of the 100,000) were induced to hasten to this place by the solicitations of the people on the frontier. But most of the ordinary militia who came out were, I believe, brought here by the impulse of their own feelings and a sense of common danger. They were dismissed the moment the danger ceased to be imminent.

Situated as I am, it would be very gratifying to receive from Your Excellency some general instruction as to what I am to do. General Wadsworth has just made a requisition on me for the purchase of twenty horses with harness, &c., for the artillery, also for baggage waggons, &c. Having received no instructions from you how to act, I am placed in respect to such demands in a situation of great delicacy.

P. S.—A man just from Canada states that the British have captured one schooner on the upper lakes and two on Lake Ontario. About 100 British soldiers have been busily employed since yesterday morning in throwing up a breastwork directly opposite to me (about a mile distant), in which they have just placed three nine-pounders. I am requested to ask whether a company of volunteers associating under the act of February 6, and designating for themselves men as officers who now hold no commissions, can be accepted and the officers if approved of by you immediately appointed. A company under these circumstances wish to volunteer near this village.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VII., pp. 366-70, New York State Library.)

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

War Department, July 9, 1812.

[Abstract.]

Instructs him after making arrangements for the defence of the seaboard to proceed to Albany and to send all recruits not otherwise disposed of to that place, or some station on Lake Champlain, to be organized for the invasion of Canada.

Militia General Orders.

Niagara, 10th July, 1812.

M. G. Orders,—

Major-General Brock having received information that a large portion of the troops assembled on the other side of the river have retired, and being anxious to afford the militia every indulgence compatible with the safety of the Province, orders that one-half of each corps or company now on duty be permitted to return home on furlough.

Officers commanding will give a preference to those whose presence on the farms are most required to bring in their harvest. A proportion of officers will also be permitted to return to their homes, who will as far as possible adopt measures to secure the return of the men to their duty whenever their services are required.

The men will receive rations according to the distance they have to travel, but during their absence they will not be entitled to pay or rations.

The arms of such men as obtain leave of absence will be left in charge of the commanding officer, who will take care that such of them as do require it will be repaired immediately, and that they are deposited in the most secure place.

By order of the Major-General,

J. Macdonell, P. A. D. C.

Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.

Montreal, July 10, 1812.

Sir,—Colonel Lethbridge's departure for Kingston affords me an opportunity of replying more fully and confidentially to your letter of the 3rd instant, than I could venture to have done the day before yesterday by an uncertain conveyance. That officer has been desired to transmit to you, together with this despatch, a copy of the instructions given to him for his guidance until the exigencies of the service make it necessary in your estimation to substitute others, or to employ the Colonel in any other situation of command. In them you will find expressed my sentiments respecting the mode of conducting the war on our part, suited to the existing circumstances, and as they change so must we vary our line of conduct, adapting it to our means of preserving entire the King's Provinces.

Our numbers would not justify offensive operations being undertaken unless they were solely calculated to strengthen a defensive attitude. I consider it prudent and politic to avoid any measure which can have a tendency to unite the people of the American States. Whilst disunion prevails among them their attempts on these Provinces will be feeble. It is therefore our duty carefully to avoid committing any act which may even by construction tend to unite the eastern and southern States, unless by its perpetration we are to derive a considerable and important advantage. But the Government of the United States, resting on public opinion for all its measures, is liable to sudden and violent changes. It becomes an essential part of our duty to watch the effect of parties on its measures, and to adapt ours to the impulse

given by those possessed of influence over the public mind in America.

Notwithstanding these observations, I have to assure you of my perfect confidence in your measures for the preservation of Upper Canada. All your wants shall be supplied as fast as possible except money, of which I have so little as to be obliged to have recourse to a paper currency.

The Adjutant-General has reported to you the aid we have afforded in arms and ammunition to your militia at Cornwall, Glengarry, Dundas and Stormont.

To prevent an interruption to the communication between the two Provinces, it is fit a system of convoy should be established between Montreal and Kingston, and as Major-General De Rottenburg is to remain here in command of a cordon of troops, consisting of regulars and militia (established in this neighborhood to prevent an irruption for the plunder of Montreal), whilst I attend to parliamentary duties at Quebec on that subject you may communicate direct with the Major-General, as he has my instructions to cooperate with you in preserving this important object.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 200-1.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 11 July, 1812.

D. G. O.

The militia forces in the district will be provisioned in the same manner, both as to quarters and species of provisions, as the regular troops.

There being no branch of the commissariat in the London district from whence supplies may be received, the proportion of troops called out for the defence of that district will be allowed their full pay so as to enable them to supply themselves.

By order,

THOS. EVANS, B. M.

Augustus Porter to General P. B. Porter.

ERIE, July 11th, 1812.

I arrived here at about ten o'clock this morning and shall leave here and proceed west this afternoon. Before you receive this you will have received Mr. Beard's letter, which came by express from Detroit, and also Mr. Woolverton's letter by the same express. These letters will be handed you by Mr. J. Stoo, who was present when I received them, and I then could do no other than send them by him. I find that I have here about 700 bbls. of flour and a considerable quantity of whiskey. I find that only 250 bbls of flour

has been sent to Detroit from here and 220 was sent up by the *contractor* from B. Rock, that a little less than 500 have been sent on. I should expect that all that must now be on hand at Detroit, which would last over 30 days. Grandin has a quantity of flour, say 3 or 400 bbls., at Waterford. He is at Pittsburg, but is daily expected here. I find people more inclined to sell flour than when I was here. I think I shall purchase at $6. I find no boats here. I am told there is a scow up the lake, which I hope to obtain. I have reason to believe that a vessel might go up safe to Miami, but of this I can judge better when I arrive at Cleveland or Huron, and will then write. I fear it will be difficult to get provisions from here up fast enough in boats. I shall go on to Cayahoga with Beard, and shall send him on from there to advise with Gen. Hull as to the propriety of sending up a vessel, boat, &c.

By Beard's letter from Detroit you will observe that he says the *Contractor* and *Amelia* are both taken. This must be a mistake, which has originated from their not arriving. Capt. Chapin, with the *Cayahoga Packet*, is no doubt taken in going from Sandusky to Detroit, with the officers' baggage and two or three officers on board, and is the vessel that we heard of being taken before I left you; the other vessels, I believe, are all safe, or was when the express left Detroit. I wish very much to hear what is going on with you. Do not fail to drop me a line directed to this place by the mail which comes from Buffalo on Wednesday next.

Since I left you I have been very uneasy respecting beef for the troops at Niagara. I hope you will not fail to contract for the delivery of it in the quarter as I proposed to you, even at $3\frac{1}{2}$ dols pr cwt. I am sure is better than I can do otherwise, as if I undertake to kill myself I shall lose many of the hides, which will spoil. Let the contract extend to the 15th of September or 1st of October.

I find Hale has 300 bbls. flour at Canadaway. I talked with him about it. He expected to get 8 dols per bbl. for it at Buffalo. I desired him to inform himself before he took it down. He agreed he would.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, July 12, 1812.

SIR,—With the exception of occasional firing from the opposite shore (the unauthorized act of an undisciplined militia) nothing of a hostile nature has occurred on this communication since I last had the honor of addressing Your Excellency.

The enemy is busy constructing batteries at different points on the river, but he does not appear to have yet received cannon to

place in them. We are doing all we can on this side to counteract his views, and the arrival of the *Royal George* and the vessels under his convoy bringing various pieces of ordnance will give us in this respect a decided superiority.

The militia which assembled here immediately on the account being received of war being declared by the United States have been improving daily in discipline, but the men evince a degree of impatience under their present restraint that is far from inspiring confidence. So great was their clamor to return and attend to their farms that I found myself in some measure compelled to sanction the departure of a large proportion, and I am not without my apprehensions that the remainder will, in the defiance of the law, which can only impose a fine of £20, leave the service the moment the harvest commences. There can be no doubt that a large portion of the population in this neighborhood are sincere in their professions to defend the country, but it appears likewise evident to me that the greater part are either indifferent to what is passing or so completely American as to rejoice in the prospect of a change of government. Many who now consider our means inadequate would readily take an active part were the regular troops increased. These cool calculators are numerous in all societies.

The alacrity and good temper with which the militia in the first instance marched to the frontiers have tended to infuse in the mind of the enemy a very different sentiment of the disposition of the inhabitants, who, he was led to believe, would, on the first summons, declare themselves an American State. The display for several days of a large force was made, I have every reason to believe in that expectation.

Nearly the whole of the arms at my disposal have been issued. They are barely sufficient to arm the militia immediately required to guard the frontier. Were I furnished with the means of distributing arms among the people in whom confidence can be placed, they would not only overawe the disaffected but prove of essential use in the event of invasion. The militia assembled in a wretched state in regard to clothing; many were without shoes, an article which can scarcely be provided in the country.

After the cannon, which have arrived this morning, are mounted, I shall consider my front perfectly secure. I do not fancy the enemy will hazard a water excursion with a view to turn my flanks. He probably will wait until winter, when the ice will enable him to cross with the utmost facility between Fort Erie and as far as Long Point. My situation will then depend upon the force the enemy may bring to invade the province. Should the troops have to move the want of tents will be severely felt.

A person who left Sandwich yesterday week pretends that the enemy was then in the act of cannonading the place. I have not heard from Lieut.-Colonel St. George since my last letter to Your Excellency.

An officer is so absolutely necessary to command in the Eastern District that I have consented to Major-General Shaw proceeding thither in that capacity. I have full confidence in his judgment, and his conduct in the field is undoubted. He, of course, will assume the command in virtue of his militia rank, and will be liable to be suspended by any lieutenant-colonel Your Excellency may be pleased to appoint.

The expense of defending this province will unquestionably be great; upon a rough calculation and supposing that 4,000 militia be constantly embodied, it cannot be estimated at less than £140,000 per annum. However great the sum, it will be applied to considerable advantage, provided Your Excellency be enabled to send reinforcements, as without them it is scarcely possible that the government of the United States will be so inactive or supine as to permit the present limited force to remain in possession of the country. Whatever can be done to preserve it or delay its fall, Your Excellency may rest assured will be exerted.

Having been suddenly called away from York I had not time to close my despatch giving Your Excellency an account of my proceedings during my stay at Amherstburg. I now have the honor to forward two documents detailing the steps taken by the Indian Department to prevail on that unfortunate people to accommodate their differences with the American Government.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 202-4.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 12th July, 1812.

D. G. O.

Mr. John Symington is appointed paymaster to the militia forces stationed in the Niagara District, with the pay of 1s. pr diem and allowances as captain, to take place from the 1st inst. Mr. Symington will afford every information to the officers in command of militia corps so as to enable them to make exact returns (paying particular attention to the broken periods) and on which he will take the measures for directly bringing forward his pay lists to the 24th inst.

(Signed.) By order,
THOS. EVANS, B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 12 July, 1812.

D. G. O.

At all times when vessels shall arrive at any of the posts in this command a boat will be immediately despatched by the officer commanding the posts with a proper person on board to ascertain the number and description of the passengers on board, and who will not be permitted to land until leave is first obtained from said commanding officer unless such passengers should be officers in His Majesty's employ.

No. 2.—It having been reported to the Major-General commanding that one or two of the centinels placed on the bank of the Niagara River have fired upon persons on the opposite shore *without orders;* for so doing, he has been pleased to express his disapprobation of such irregular conduct and to direct that officers commanding at the different posts on the communication will take the necessary steps to prevent a repetition of such discreditable practices.

By order,

THOS. EVANS, B. Major.

Orders.

One lieutenant, two sergeants and thirty rank and file from the four flank companies of the Lincoln Militia stationed at Niagara will be furnished for engineers' fatigue at Fort George, and to be on the ground to-morrow at 3 o'clock.

Niagara, 14th July, 1812.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, July 13, 1812.

Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer having been requested to repair to the command of the militia heretofore ordered into the the service and to be hereafter ordered into the service of the United States, for the defence of the northern and western frontiers of this State between St. Regis and Pennsylvania, enters upon his command this day. All the militia comprehended in the brigades of detached militia organized in the first detached division by General Orders of the 18th day of June last, together with the corps commanded by Lieutenant-Colonels Swift, Fleming and Bellinger, are hereby declared to be subject to the orders of Major-General Van Rensselaer without waiting for further general orders on that subject, and all officers commanding the militia from which

the first detached division was taken are promptly to obey and respect such division orders accordingly.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

WM. PAULDING, Jun'r, Adjutant-General.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

Augustus Porter to General Porter.

CAYAHOGA, July 13th, 1812.

SIR,—I am thus far on my way; have determined to go to Detroit. I have engaged one boat only to go on with provisions; have such news from Detroit as determines me to go on to that place. Mr. Thompson will give you the news, which is great. The news I sent on relative to British cruisers being on our shore is incorrect. I wish you by all means to send on the *Contractor* to Erie to load for Miami. I think as she comes on she had best touch at different places along the lake, say at Sandusky or Huron, and enquire the news. Do not fail to send her along. I shall go to Detroit. I shall stay there as long as I shall find it necessary, perhaps all summer. Do write to Mr. Coffin; I have no time to do it. Tell him to do as well as he can. He must abandon everything like farming and attend to the troops. You ought to have people enough to assist. Let us if possible supply the troops, if I should lose all my property by it. Do write me every opportunity.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

From the New York Gazette.

(Issue of July 24th, 1812.)

BUFFALO, July 14, 1812.

Major-General Brock is at present at Newark superintending the various defences on the river. He is stated to be an able and experienced officer with undoubted courage. He came from Little York soon after hearing the declaration of war, and it was believed with a serious intention of attacking Fort Niagara, but, contrary to what has been reported, he made no demand of a surrender.

Expecting a descent from the American army, the Canadians have for ten days past been removing their families and effects from the river into the interior. At Newark, Queenston, and other villages on the river there are no inhabitants except a few civilians and officers and soldiers. It is even said that an immense quantity of specie, plate, &c., from various parts of the province have been boxed up and destined for Quebec.

The British are understood to have about six or seven hundred regular troops stationed between the lakes from Fort George to

Fort Erie. These men are generally those who have "seen service" in various parts of the world. The militia of the province are ordered out *en masse*. Great discontent prevails in consequence of this requisition, there being no help to gather in the crops; the clamors of the people are but little short of open rebellion. There is no civil authority in Canada—no magistrates will act—the martial code has usurped the civil law. Many young tradesmen in Canada from the States will be ruined. They are required to take up arms or leave the country. They cannot collect their debts nor bring away their property, but many have come away and left their all in jeopardy.

Fort Erie has been strengthened considerably. A redoubt many rods in length was thrown up on Wednesday and Thursday last on the hill below the house of John Warren, Jr., and directly opposite the dwelling house of General Peter B. Porter at Lower Black Rock. There is also a battery on a point below Chippawa mounted with two pieces of heavy artillery, calculated to play upon the storehouses and mills of Schlosser. Below the Falls there is a small stone battery near the bank of the river where the lower ladder formerly stood. On Thursday evening last a rifleman deserted from the other side and crossed the river below the Falls on a pine log. He stated that but a little way up the river from the battery a field piece was stationed in the bushes to fire into Schlosser Village. The woolen factory of John W. Stoughton, consisting of two carding machines and fulling and dressing machines, is very much exposed. On the hill about half a mile from the stone battery are placed two 18-pounders. The ladders on both sides of the river are taken up. On the hill above Queenston there is a small defence on very commanding ground. Below Queenston, nearly opposite the residence of Benjamin Barton, Esq., there is a defence of several rods in extent. Opposite Youngstown there is another redoubt thrown up. Andrew Baker, son of Judge Baker of this village, together with three other persons, citizens of the United States, escaped from Canada at Long Point in a skiff, and safely arrived in this village on Friday night.

It is stated by gentlemen of intelligence at Lewiston that the Government of Canada have in their employment under pay about 250 Indians armed complete; a part of them are mounted.

Brigadier-General William Wadsworth from Genesee commands the troops on our frontiers. His aids are Major Adam Hoops and Major W. H. Spencer. His headquarters are now at Lewiston. It is impossible to state the exact number of troops under his command because the militia ordered on the lines are returning and the companies composing the regiments under his command have not

all arrived, but from what we learn there are in regular troops, volunteers, and detached militia, above 4,000 stationed at Black Rock, Lewiston, Youngstown, and Fort Niagara. The troops are in excellent health, in good spirits and well supplied. They appear quite impatient for want of employment. There has been some firing from the sentries on both sides of the river.

It was reported at Fort Niagara last week that the British have sent from Little York every armed ship in pursuit of the brig *Oneida*.

The British armed ship *Queen Charlotte*, lying at Fort Erie, soon after the declaration of war was received left her moorings and proceeded up the lake, and is now understood to be at Fort Malden, the great depot of Indian supplies. His Majesty's sloop of war *Hunter* has gone up the straits of Mackina and passed into Lake Michigan and captured an American merchant vessel, said to be either the *Mary* or *Salina*. We understand an official account of the capture has been received at Fort Erie.

Sir George Prevost to the Earl of Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 15th July, 1812.

(No. 57.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatches of the 30th March, 2nd and 20th April, No. 8, 10 and 15, to which I now beg leave to reply and to offer some observations for Your Lordship's consideration.

. . . . . .

I find by a communication from Major-General Brock, commanding in Upper Canada, that the American general officer commanding the district of Niagara, having received early information from his government of the declaration of war, had projected the surprise of Fort George, but fortunately the reports of the approach of hostilities and the preparations making for them brought Major-General Brock to the fort, where the display of his vigilance and activity induced them to relinquish the attempt.

Major-General Brock has received certain accounts of war having been declared by the United States against Great Britain, and has reported to me that in consequence it was his opinion he should be justified in offensive operations, but upon the reflection that at Detroit and St. Joseph's the weak state of our garrisons would prevent any essential service connected with their future security, and that his only means of annoyance at present was limited to the reduction of Fort Niagara, which could be battered at any future period, he had therefore relinquished his original intention and should attend only to defensive measures.

I have repeatedly recommended to Major-General Brock and to the officers in command of the other districts of British America an adherence to this system, and I have expressed to them my sentiments respecting the mode of conducting the war on our part suited to existing circumstances, and as they change so should we vary our line of conduct adapting it to our means of preserving entire the King's Provinces.

Our numbers would not justify offensive operations being undertaken unless they were solely calculated to strengthen a defensive attitude.

In the present state of politics in the United States, I consider it prudent to avoid every measure which can have the least tendency to unite the people of America. Whilst disunion prevails among them, their attempts on the British American Provinces will be feeble. It is therefore my wish to avoid committing any act which may even by a strained construction tend to unite the Eastern and Southern States, unless from its perpetration we are to derive an immediate, considerable and important advantage.

Major-General Brock has called out the flank companies of militia, which has produced a force on the line of the Niagara River of about 800 men. They turned out very cheerfully, but already shew a spirit of impatience.

The Americans are very active on the opposite side of that communication in the erection of redoubts. In this respect we are not idle. The Americans have 1200 regulars and militia between Fort Niagara and Black Rock, but Major General Brock, who has taken his station at Fort George, considers himself at present perfectly safe against any attempt they can make.

About 100 Indians from the Grand River have attended to his summons. The remainder promise to come also.

A report has been made to me by Major Macpherson, commanding at Kingston on Lake Ontario, that the Americans have taken possession of Carleton Island near that post and have made prisoners of the small party of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion stationed on it.

We continue to possess a superiority in vessels of war upon Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

I find myself seriously embarrassed by a scarcity of arms for the militia of Upper Canada and Lower Canada, who have evinced a desire to co-operate with the regular forces exceeding my expectations.

I fear for the safety of the *Cambo* transport, which sailed from Bermuda for Quebec the 21st of April with 6000 stand of arms on board, and has not since been heard of. I fear that she has been

lost in a gale, and I have directed Sir John C. Sherbrooke to send to Quebec half of the arms in store at Halifax, which may exceed 1000 stand.

The difficulties long experienced in obtaining specie for the subsistence of the troops are at an end by the declaration of war, which closes the source from which it came. It has become necessary to substitute paper money for it, as it appears none can be sent from England, and I am about to seek the aid of the Provincial Parliament to give it value and currency. My total inability to supply Upper Canada with specie compelled Major-General Brock to seek the assistance of an association of merchants, a measure which has been attended with considerable success, enabling him to pay his militia forces now embodied, amounting to 4000 men.

. . . . . .

Major-General Brock is the only General Officer in the extensive district of Upper Canada.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 39.

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 15th, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Instructing him upon his arrival at Albany to direct his attention to the security of the northern frontier. In addition to authority to require militia for defence, and with a view to offensive operations, he is authorized to accept volunteers from New England, New York and Pennsylvania, and to call into service such a number of volunteers as he may deem requisite.

District General Order.

NIAGARA, 16th July, 1812.

D. G. O.

The officers on duty this morning were exceedingly remiss in allowing a boat to pass within four miles of Missassagua Point without reporting it until too late for it to be intercepted. Colonel Claus will adopt the measures to guard against its recurrence in future.

A proper person will be stationed at the top of the light house every morning at half an hour before daylight, to remain throughout the day, who will be particularly instructed to watch what passes on the lake and on the enemy's side of the river. The officer on duty will frequently visit him to assist in making the necessary observations.

The Major-General was surprised this morning to find that the

order for the apprehension of all strangers travelling on any part of the communication was not complied with, and that avowed Americans were permitted to parade the streets and examine the works.

Colonel Claus will explain to every officer and militiaman, that it is expected (whether on or off duty) that they will stop all suspicious characters and take them before a magistrate for examination.

Officers commanding posts will not only examine the arms and ammunition in use, but likewise those which the men on furlough have left in store, and see that the whole be in a state fit for service. They will report having done so.

Notice will be taken on the back of the report of any orders having reached them during the day—the date and purport of the orders already received will be inserted on the morning report of next Monday.

By order of the Major-General,

THOS. EVANS, B. Major.

Daniel Ross to James Cummings.

WOODHOUSE, July 16, 1812.

(Extract.)

We have a little rest now, but I can assure you we have been in great confusion for some time past. It is supposed and hoped by a great many here that there will be no war, which I hope may be the case, but am very dubious. . . . . Col. Talbot came down yesterday. The four flank companies in front was stationed at Turkey Point. He discharged half of them for a week for their respective homes. Some jangling here between the officers, say Major S. and Gordon, Dan. McCall, &c. No time to give any particulars.

From the Federal Republican of Baltimore, Md., 27th July, 1812.

Extract from a letter dated at Buffalo, 14th July, 1812.

Joseph Willcocks, editor of a little paper which lately died at Newark, and which uniformly opposed and calumniated the Government of Upper Canada, has tendered his services to that Government during the present war.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 18th July, 1812.

D. G. O.

The District General Orders of the 12th inst., respecting the arrival of vessels and examination of passengers, &c., will be

enforced at this post by Fort Major Campbell, which officer will prevent any vessel of whatsoever description from sailing without his permission for that purpose.

No. 2.

Fort Major Campbell will in future issue the parole and countersign to the several staff officers and others entitled to receive them, who are at present or may be hereafter stationed at Fort George.

Mr. Muirhead, attached to the forces at Chippawa, will immediately remove from thence to Queenston, there to take charge of the sick until further orders.

Mr. Fleming will succeed Mr. Muirhead in the superintendence of the sick at Chippawa.

By order of the Major-General.

THOS. EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

General Wm. Hull to the Six Nations.

SANDWICH, July 18, 1812.

My Brethren of the Six Nations:—

The powerful army under my command is now in possession of Canada. To you who are friendly it will afford safety and protection. All your lands and all your rights of every kind will be guaranteed to you if you will take no part against us. I salute you in friendship, and hope you will now act such a part as will promote your interest, your safety, and happiness. . May the Great Spirit guide you in person.

WM. HULL,
Governor of the Territory of Michigan, and
Commander of the Northwestern Army
of the United States.

(From the *New York Gazette*, August 20th, 1812.)

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, July 20th, 1812.

SIR,—My last to Your Excellency was dated the 12th instant, since which nothing extraordinary has occurred on this communication. The enemy has evidently diminished his force, and appears to have no intention of making an immediate attack.

I have herewith the honor of enclosing the copy of two letters which I have received from Lt.-Col. St. George, together with some

interesting documents found on board a schooner which the boats of the *Hunter* captured on her voyage from the Miamis to Detroit.

From the accompanying official correspondence between General Hull and the Secretary at War, it appears that the collected force which has arrived at Detroit amounts to about two thousand.

I have requested Colonel Procter to proceed to Amherstburg and ascertain accurately the state of things in that quarter. I had every inclination to go there myself, but the meeting of the Legislature on the 27th renders it impossible.

I received this moment a despatch dated the 15th instant, from Lt.-Col. St. George, giving an account of the enemy having landed on the 12th, and immediately after occupying the village of Sandwich. It is strange that three days should be allowed to elapse before sending to acquaint me of this important fact. I had no idea until I received Lt.-Colonel St. George's letter a few days ago that General Hull was advancing with such a large force.

The militia, from every account, behaved very ill. The officers appear the most in fault. Colonel Procter will probably reach Amherstburg in the course of to-morrow. I have great dependence on that officer's decision, but fear he will arrive too late to be of much service. The enemy was not likely to delay attacking a force that had allowed him to cross the river in open day without firing a shot.

The position which Lt.-Colonel St. George occupied is very good, and infinitely more formidable than the post itself. Should he, therefore, be compelled to retire I know of no other alternative than embarking in the King's vessels and proceeding to Fort Erie.

Were it possible to animate the militia to a proper sense of their duty something might yet be done, but I almost despair.

Your Excellency will readily perceive the critical situation in which the reduction of Amherstburg is sure to place me. I do not imagine General Hull will be able to detach more than one thousand men, but, even with that trifling force, I much fear he will succed in getting to my rear. The militia will not act without a strong regular force to set them the example, and as I must now expect to be seriously threatened from the opposite shore, I cannot in prudence make strong detachments, which would not only weaken my line of defence, but in the event of a retreat endanger their safety.

I have never, as Your Excellency has doubtless noticed, been very sanguine in my hopes of assistance from the militia, and I am now given to understand that General Hull's insidious proclamation (herewith enclosed) has already been productive of considerable effect on the minds of the people. In fact a general sentiment

prevails that with the present force resistance is unavailing. I shall continue to exert myself to the utmost to overcome every difficulty. Should, however, the communication between Kingston and Montreal be cut off, the fate of the troops in this part of the Province will be decided. I now express my apprehensions on a supposition that the slender means Your Excellency possesses will not admit of diminution, consequently that I cannot look for reinforcements.

The enemy evidently has no intention at present of penetrating into the Province by this strait. He seems much more inclined to work on the flanks; after they are secured, little remains for him to do.

The last official communication from the Lower Province is dated the 25th ulto. The Adjutant-General then announced the receipt of intelligence by a mercantile house, of war being declared by the United States against Great Britain. I need not entreat Your Excellency to honor me with your commands with as little delay as possible. I consider every moment exceedingly precious.

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 203.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 20th July, 1812.

No honors to be paid to officers by the guards or sentries on the bank of the river or beach during the day.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 21, 1812.

Since our last there has been no material change in the posture of affairs on the frontier. Two or three additional companies of volunteers have arrived at Lewiston. The health of the troops is, we understand, rather improved since the late showers and change in the weather. The troops have suffered for the want of experienced cooks, and there is no doubt that several might find employment and very liberal wages by applying at Black Rock or Lewiston.

On Friday last General Wadsworth, accompanied by his aid, Major Spencer, came from his quarters at Lewiston to Black Rock. On Saturday he inspected the troops at that place and those stationed in this village, consisting of Captain Wells's company of light infantry and Captain Cyrenius Chapin's company of artillery.

He spoke in terms of commendation of the progressive improvement in military discipline in some, particularly the company of artillery, and in terms of severe reprehension of the neglect of duty or want of attention or information in others, particularly some of the officers at the Rock.

He returned to his quarters at Lewiston on Sunday.

Dr. Asa Coltrin, who went from this village last spring and established himself at St. David's, near Queenston, is appointed a surgeon in the British army, and is now at Fort George, Newark. His pay is 100 dollars per month, besides rations, forage, &c.

On the 2d instant Messrs. Martin Daley, Luke Draper, and W. Phillips (the two former were connected in the grocery business in this village last summer) were seized within 12 miles of Long Point, U. Canada, as spies. They were marched under guard to a court of three justices of the peace, who, after examining them, without assigning any reason, ordered them to headquarters without delay, upon which they were put on board the schr. *Chippawa* and landed at Fort Erie, and were then put in a waggon and transported to Fort George, and there imprisoned in the guard house, and there continued for 8 days, during which time their keeper gave them only one loaf of bread. They daily offered money to their keeper to buy provisions, but it was with great difficulty they could obtain even the remnants of the officers' table, and these remnants only a few times during the 8 days, and when obtained they were charged at the most extravagant price.

On the evening of the 12th inst., some intelligence of a favorable nature to the prisoners coming from Long Point, they were liberated next morning and sent across the river, and arrived in this village on Tuesday.

The *Royal George* arrived off Niagara River on yesterday week, and anchored near the American garrison over night. On Tuesday she took on board 100 men and several pieces of artillery, and proceeded down the lake. The *Hunter* arrived at Fort Erie some time last week and still remains there.

PROCLAMATION.

The unprovoked declaration of war by the United States of America against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and its dependencies, has been followed by the actual invasion of

this Province in a remote frontier of the Western District by a detachment of the armed forces of the United States. The officer commanding that detachment has thought proper to invite His Majesty's subjects not only to a quiet and unresisting submission, but insults them with a call to seek voluntarily the protection of his Government. Without condescending to repeat the illiberal epithets bestowed in this appeal of the American commander to the people of Upper Canada on the administration of His Majesty, every inhabitant of this province is desired to seek the refutation of such indecent slander in a review of his own particular circumstances. Where is the Canadian subject who can truly affirm to himself that he has been injured by the Government in his person, his liberty or his property? Where is to be found in any part of the world a growth so rapid in wealth and prosperity as this colony exhibits—settled not thirty years ago by a band of veterans exiled from their former possessions on account of their loyalty. Not a descendant of these brave people is to be found who, under the fostering liberality of their Sovereign, has not acquired a property and means of enjoyment superior to what were possessed by his ancestors. This unequalled prosperity could not have been attained by the utmost liberality of the Government or the persevering industry of the people had not the maritime power of the Mother Country secured to its colonists a safe access to every market where the produce of their labor was in demand.

The unavoidable and immediate consequence of a separation from Great Britain must be the loss of this inestimable advantage. And what is offered you in exchange? To become a territory of the United States, and share with them that exclusion from the ocean which the policy of their present Government enforces. You are not even flattered with a participation of their boasted independence, and it is but too obvious that once excluded from the powerful protection of the United Kingdom you must be reannexed to the dominion of France, from which the Provinces of Canada were wrested by the arms of Great Britain at a vast expense of blood and treasure, from no other motive than to *relieve* her ungrateful children from the oppression of a cruel neighbor: this restitution to the Empire of France was the stipulated reward for the aid afforded to the revolted colonies, now the United States; the debt is still due, and there can be no doubt the pledge has been renewed as a consideration for commercial advantages, or rather for an expected relaxation in the tyranny of France over the commercial world. Are you prepared, inhabitants of Upper Canada, to become willing subjects, or rather slaves, to the Despot who rules the nations of Europe with a rod of iron? If not, arise

in a body, exert your energies, co-operate cordially with the King's regular forces to repel the invader, and do not give cause to your children when groaning under the oppression of a foreign master to reproach you with having too easily parted with the richest inheritance on earth—a participation in the name, character and freedom of Britons.

The same spirit of justice which will make allowance for the unsuccessful efforts of zeal and loyalty, will not fail to punish the defalcation of principle. Every Canadian freeholder is by deliberate choice bound by the most solemn oaths to defend the monarchy, as well as his own property; to shrink from that engagement is a treason not to be forgiven. Let no man suppose that if in this unexpected struggle His Majesty's arms should be compelled to yield to an overwhelming force that the Province will be abandoned. The endeared relation of its first settlers, the intrinsic value of its commerce and the pretensions of its powerful rival to repossess the Canadas are pledges that no peace will be established between the United States and Great Britain of which the restoration of these Provinces does not make the most prominent condition.

Be not dismayed at the unjustifiable threat of the commander of the enemy's forces if an Indian appear in the ranks. The brave bands of natives which inhabit this colony were, like His Majesty's subjects, punished for their zeal and fidelity by the loss of their possessions in the late colonies and rewarded by His Majesty with lands of superior value in this Province. The faith of the British Government has never yet been violated; they feel that the soil they inherit is to them and their posterity protected from the base acts so frequently devised to overreach their simplicity. By what new principle are they to be prevented from defending their property? If their warfare, from being different from that of the white people, is more terrific to the enemy, let him retrace his steps; they seek him not and cannot expect to find women and children in an invading army; but they are men, and have equal rights with all other men to defend themselves and their property when invaded, more especially when they find in the enemy's camps a ferocious and mortal foe using the same kind of warfare which the American Commander affects to reprobate.

This inconsistent and unjustifiable threat of refusing quarter for such a cause as being found in arms with a brother sufferer in defence of invaded rights must be exercised with a certain assurance of retaliation, not only in the limited operations of war in this part of the King's dominions, but in every quarter of the globe, for the national character of Britain is not less distinguished for humanity than strict retributive justice, which will consider the execution of

this threat as deliberate murder, for which every subject of the offending power must make expiation.

God save the King.

ISAAC BROCK,
Maj.-Gen. and President.

Headquarters, Fort George, 22d July, 1812.

By order of His Honor the President.

J. B. GLEGG,
Capt. A. D. C.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 315. p. 152.)

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, 22d July, 1812.

Militia General Orders.

Major-General Brock, having ascertained that a very considerable number of the enemy have actually invaded this Province, is under the necessity of directing that such men of the different flank companies of the several Regiments of Lincoln Militia as are now absent upon furlough, or otherwise be immediately ordered to join their respective companies, and that these companies be constantly kept upon their full establishment.

The Major-General is further pleased to direct that the whole of these different regiments be ordered to hold themselves in constant readiness for actual service.

By order of the Major-General.

J. MACDONELL, P. A. D. C.

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 22d July, 1812.

Militia Genl. Orders.

Major-General Brock has been pleased to direct that an addition of thirty men be made to the strength of Captain Powell's company of Lincoln Artillery, the men for which are to be taken from the battalion companies of Colonels Warren and Clark's regiments of Lincoln Militia.

By order of the Major-General.

J. MACDONELL, P. A. D. C.

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 22d July, 1812.

Militia Genl. Orders.

Colonel Talbot will make detachments from the First and Second Norfolk and the Oxford and Middlesex Regiments of

Militia, to consist together of two hundred men, with a proportionate number of officers, the whole to be placed under the command of Major Salmon of the Second Regiment of Norfolk Militia. This detachment will be assembled as soon as possible in as complete a state as circumstances will admit, for service. Major Salmon will proceed with this force to the Moravian Town on the River Thames, where he will await the arrival of Major Chambers, under whose command he will place himself.

By order of the Major-General,

J. MACDONELL, P. A. D. C.

Inspector-General Nicholas Gray to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, July 22, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—I arrived here on the 18th inst., and was received with every mark of attention and respect, and yesterday visited the garrison, accompanied by General Wadsworth, whose anxiety for the necessary camp equipage, artillery, arms and ammunition is very great. We have some fine companies of infantry here without belts or cartridge boxes, and all without uniform, except a very handsome company of light infantry raised by Captain Dox of Geneva, and to which evidently every attention has been paid. The enemy have thrown up redoubts on the south and north approaches to Queenston, which command our camp, stores, headquarters, &c., &c. They appear to have in each of them an 18-pounder, and the one on the south side has been levelled at the general's quarters ever since I came here; the distance, about nineteen hundred yards. We feel very anxious for the arrival of some artillery equal to this, and it appears to me that the present situation of the army of the British has given the inhabitants of this part of the Canadas entire control of the army. I have recommended to the general to throw up a redoubt under the brow of the hill above Lewiston, which will remove the enemy's redoubt, destroy Queenston, and enfilade the river and small redoubt immediately opposite the camp of Colonel Dobbins. The enemy unfortunately have the commanding ground everywhere, and even at the garrison commanded by Captain Leonard, who, I believe, is an excellent officer. His situation last Sunday was alarming: three of the enemy's armed ships hove within a very few rods of the garrison, and seemed to threaten an immediate bombardment, but after remaining for a few hours they steered to the northward down the lake. He is in a very defenceless state. I have recommended him to throw up a new bastion in the west, so as to command the British fort and the town of Newark, which will contain seven guns of a large calibre (when he gets them,) the

stone tower forming one of the angles, and will be protected on the north and north-east by the messhouse and another stone tower on the east. I proposed to throw up a breastwork from the last mentioned tower to the skirt of the wood, a distance of about three hundred yards, sufficiently high to protect a retreat in case such were necessary. General Wadsworth has this morning ordered a military school, both for officers and soldiers, which you know is much wanting. He pays unwearied attention to the troops, and a system is forming which has for its object the organization of the staff and camp duties. Indeed he is most deficient in his most necessary officer, who is absolutely incapable and negligent. I mean his brigade-inspector, who seems to be in a dream from morning till night. I should strongly recommend the removal of this gentleman, and some capable officer put in his place. His name is Keyes. To the incapacity of this officer the want of due organization is owing in a great measure. It appears to me that the object of the enemy from Fort Erie to Fort George, in throwing up the different redoubts, is to cover a retreat. They have four pieces of artillery at Chippawa, I believe six and nine-pounders; opposite Black Rock one 24, and, I believe, a mortar; and they have within these eight days thrown up a strong redoubt immediately opposite the barracks built by General Peter B. Porter. I recommended him to throw up a breastwork with a short barbette for a piece of artillery, so as to protect the barracks and secure the soldiers on parade, on which he is at work since Monday, But the absolute want of all sorts of working tools has prevented the troops taking measures absolutely necessary to their protection. They have been in want of everything, and have great fortitude and zeal to bear their privations so well. The camps are pretty healthy. Out of 402 men the sick returns are 35. Over at Queenston side the high ground commands everything, and it was with difficulty, after a close examination, I could find any place in which to throw up a redoubt which could not be commanded by this hill. The enemy have a kind of encampment on the top of this hill, and their numbers, as far as I can judge, about three hundred. They are calculated to number, from Fort George to Fort Erie, including militia and Indians, about four thousand 500, including the two garrisons. The Indians are armed and employed, we understand, on Grand Island. A citizen of the States came over yesterday morning with two others, and informed the General that a party of Indians had passed over to Grand Island for the purpose of destroying the military stores along the shore from Black Rock. Your two letters, I had the honor of delivering to Colonel Swift, and the promotion of Major Miller was well received. He appears to be a good officer.

There is a party of Major Mullany's regiment which was left behind at the garrison at the request, I believe, of Captain Leonard, at the time he was requested by the neighborhood of Canandaigua to march on here. They have been ordered by the major to repair forthwith to Albany, as it was the request of Colonel Schuyler, but he did not make any application or notification to General Wadsworth, under whose command they now are. The General has deemed it absolutely necessary, from the defenceless state of the garrison, to order them to remain until further orders. Fort George is well provided with arms, ammunition, and soldiers, but is of itself not so strong as the American garrison. All the curtains of it are old rotten pickets, and not even a *fosse* to support them. They are enfiladed by batteries badly constructed, and, in my mind, could be taken without great hazard. The militia of Canada, we understand, have been allowed to go home to the harvest, and I know not a more applicable or better chosen time can occur to overwhelm them than just now, if the troops were prepared and in sufficient numbers to ensure victory. General Hall has not arrived here as yet, but is expected to march this day from his home. The tents, &c., &c., have not as yet arrived, but are also expected, as is some artillery.

I should have had the honor of addressing a letter to you sooner than this, but I was not prepared to give you the information you required. From Buffalo to the American garrison we have 1230 militia and 470 regulars, in all 1700 men, in pretty good health and tolerable spirits. They are both, men and officers, anxious to have the orders to cross over, but they see and hear plainly everything going on on the British side. A few evenings ago a centinel at Black Rock, on his post opposite the British redoubt, in the tone of a veteran with a long monotony of sound, cried, "All's well." Our centinel, who perhaps did not like his own situation, as the evening was a little cold and his post rather exposed, cried out immediately after the other, "All's well, too."

I should feel highly honored by having a letter from Your Excellency, and beg to assure you that every assistance in my knowledge and exertion I shall deem my duty to afford here.

P. S.—There are but twenty light horsemen here to do the duty within an extent of 34 miles. They are chiefly employed in expresses and escorts; are quite inefficient for the duty. The quarters are not the best for them, and they are beginning to feel the weight of duty.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VII., pp. 502–6, New York State Library.)

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 23 July, 1812.

M. G. Orders.

Major-General Brock has been pleased to appoint Captain Henry Warren of the 3rd Regiment of Lincoln Militia to be second major of the same regiment, of which he will immediately assume the command and use every exertion to prepare the whole of the men for actual service.

By order the Major-General.

J. MACDONELL. P. A. D. C.

Major-General Van Rensselaer to His Excellency Governor Tompkins.

OGDENSBURG, July 23, 1812, 8 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—On receiving information that Sackett's Harbor was menaced by the enemy, I deemed it expedient that General Brown should repair there, and accordingly he departed from this place early yesterday morning. One reason for my remaining a day or two longer at this post was to await and possibly improve the success which might attend a projected attack upon a ten-gun British schooner which has for several days been lying at the dock at Prescott, opposite to this place. The proposed attack was concerted by my aid-de-camp, Col. Van Rensselaer, and Col. Benedict, who commands at this post. Yesterday was spent in preparations. The boarding boats were ready at 1 o'clock last night, and the attack was to have been made by land and water at 3 in the morning. But when everything was ready in such a manner as to promise complete success, it was discovered with infinite chagrin and mortification that only *sixty-six* men would volunteer for the service. This number being by no means competent, Cols. Van Rensselaer and Benedict, who would certainly have led the men to action with the most cool and determined bravery, were compelled to abandon an enterprise honorable in itself and upon the result of which might have depended the whole command of the lake and river.

This promising object having been blasted, and as nothing further of consequence appeared to demand my longer stay here, I was on the eve of my departure at five o'clock this afternoon, when a large armed ship was discovered coming down the river. She has anchored close in shore on the opposite side of the river, near to the schooner, and appears to be a fourteen-gun ship. Considerable solicitude prevails in this place. It is generally believed that the vessels in the harbor are the object of the enemy. The owners of

the vessels are preparing to scuttle them or remove them as far out of the reach of the enemy as may be. The troops are busy constructing a fort of timber north of Parish's store, on the best ground for the purpose. But, sir, our very great misfortune is that we have only *two six-pounders*. If this harbor is to be protected it is absolutely necessary that I should be immediately furnished with cannon of a competent calibre for the probably approaching emergency. I shall wait your answer by the return of the express and govern myself accordingly.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative of the Affair of Queenston in the War of 1812, New York, 1836, Appendix, pp. 20-1)

Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Captain James Cummings.

FORT GEORGE, July 23, 1812.

SIR,—Upon looking from Wilson's at the Falls last evening after leaving you, I find that Lafferty's can be seen most distinctly, therefore it will not be necessary to put up a staff at the point where we were at the head of the rapids, but the Genl. wishes one to be erected on the point at Chippawa, not so much as an intermediate situation as to give the alarm when required to the garrison, &c., there. You will therefore be pleased to have the pole intended for the head of the rapids put up at Chippawa. The best place at Wilson's is on the cleared point near the paling of Wilson's garden, and not far from the head of the path that goes down to the Table Rock; when you go there you will easily see it. You will please to examine the rising ground at Lundy's Lane (the school house) and find out whether a beacon from that place could be seen from any part of the high lands of Pelham. I request you will have some of the bark, &c., for the fires collected at each post, and the iron baskets shall be sent up as soon as possible. The pole for the corner of the wheat field had better not be put up until you can ascertain how soon the grain will be cut, and when it is cut whether or not we can open a communication across it to the camp; if so the dragoon that would come from Wilson's could ride on across to the camp. Let me hear from you on this, as also on the subject of the ground at Lundy's Lane.

Edward Couche, Deputy Commissary-General, to Captain James Cummings.

FORT GEORGE, 25th July, 1812.

SIR,—Major-General Brock having been pleased to approve of my appointing you to act in the Commissariat Department in this Province, I am to direct that you proceed without loss of time to

Oxford and make arrangements for furnishing about 400 men with provisions, who are expected to arrive there in the course of a few days, under the command of Col. Talbot.

There will, I expect, be little difficulty in procuring cattle for this department in the neighborhood of Oxford, and you will use every exertion to find bread or flour also for their use from the inhabitants.

Should, however, this source of supply fail, I have directed fifty barrels of flour to be forwarded from Long Point to Oxford, and forty barrels of flour, twenty barrels of pork and one cask of salt to Port Talbot. You will of course consult with Colonel Talbot on the best means of transporting the last mentioned provisions to Delaware, or to any other part of the country where they may be required, but it is expressly to be understood that these provisions are not to be consumed until the country can no longer provide a sufficient quantity for the use of the troops.

You will for the present give your receipts to the parties for any articles of provisions, &c., you may receive from them, and I will in a short time arrange their being paid for the same at the current rate of the country.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Coffin will furnish you with stationery and forms for your provision accounts, and I expect from your zeal and activity that the troops employed on this arduous service will be well supplied with provisions, and that your accounts of the same will be made up with regularity and correctness.

Major-General Brock has been pleased also to approve of my allowing you the pay of ten shillings stg. per day and forage for one horse until further orders.

You will place yourself under the orders of the officer in command of the detachment with which you are to serve and obey all such instructions as he may find it necessary to give, taking care to make me acquainted with the same as early as possible.

You will further report to me on all heads of service, and state in a particular manner the resources of the country, so that I may form a judgment of what provisions it may be requisite to forward from this garrison.

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, July 26, 1812.

SIR,—Since my despatch to Your Excellency of the 20th instant I have received information of the enemy having made frequent and extensive inroads from Sandwich up the River Thames. I have in consequence been induced to detach Captain

Chambers, with about 50 of the 41st Regiment, to the Moravian Town, where I have directed two hundred militia to join him. From the loud and apparently warm professions of the Indians residing on the Grand River, I made no doubt of finding at all times a large majority ready to take the field and act in conjunction with our troops, but accounts received this morning state that they have determined to remain neutral, and had in consequence refused (with the exception of about 50) to join Chambers's detachment.

I meditated, the moment I could collect a sufficient number of militia, a diversion to the westward in the hope of compelling General Hull to retreat across the river, but this unexpected intelligence has ruined the whole of my plans. The militia which I destined for this service will now be alarmed and unwilling to leave their families to the mercy of 400 Indians, whose conduct affords such wide room for suspicion—and, really, to expect that this fickle race would remain in the midst of war in a state of neutrality is truly absurd. The Indians have probably been led to this change of sentiment by emissaries from General Hull, whose proclamation to the Six Nations is herewith enclosed.

I have not deemed it of sufficient importance to commence active operations on this line by an attack on Fort Niagara. It can be demolished when found necessary in half an hour, and there my means of annoyance would terminate. To enable the militia to organize some degree of discipline without interruption is of greater consequence than such a conquest.

Everything shall be done in my power to overcome the difficulties by which I am surrounded, but without strong reinforcements I fear the country cannot be roused to make exertions equal, without support, to meet the present crisis.

I proceed immediately to York to attend the meeting of the Legislature. I hope to return on Wednesday. The charge of this frontier will in the meantime devolve on Lt.-Colonel Myers, who appears worthy of every confidence.

The actual invasion of the Province has compelled me to recall that portion of the militia whom I permitted to return home and work at harvest. I am prepared to hear of much discontent in consequence. The disaffected will take advantage of it and add fuel to the flame, but it may not be without reason that I may be accused of having already studied, to the injury of the service, their convenience and humor.

I should have derived much consolation in the midst of my present difficulties had I been honored previous to the meeting of the Legislature with Your Excellency's determination in regard to this Province. That it cannot be maintained with its present force is

very obvious, and unless the enemy be driven from Sandwich it will be impossible to avert much longer the impending ruin of the country. Numbers have already joined the invading army, commotions are excited, and late occurrences have spread a general gloom.

I have not heard from Lt.-Colonel St. George, nor from any individual at Amherstburg since I last had the honor of addressing Your Excellency, which makes me apprehensive that Colonel Procter has been detained on his journey too long for the good of the service.

The enemy's cavalry amounts to about 50. They are led by one Watson, a surveyor from Montreal, of a desperate character. This fellow has been allowed to parade with about 20 men of the same description as far as Westminster, vowing as they went along the most bitter vengeance against the first characters of the Province. Nothing can show more strongly the state of apathy in that part of the country. I am perhaps too liberal in attributing the conduct of the inhabitants to that cause.

Mr. Couche has represented to the head of his department the total impracticability of carrying on the public service without a remittance in specie, or a government paper substitute. He was once in expectation of making arrangements with some individuals that would have enabled him to proceed, but I much fear the whole project has fallen to the ground. The militia on this communication was so clamorous for their pay that I directed Mr. Couche to make the necessary advances. This has drained him of the little specie in his possession.

My present civil office not only authorizes me to convene general court martial for the trial of offenders belonging to the militia, but likewise the infliction of the sentence of death—whilst in regard to the military my power is limited to the mere assembling of the court. I beg leave to submit to the consideration of Your Excellency whether, in times like the present, I ought not to be invested with equal authority over each service.

I herewith have the honor to transmit two letters, one from Captain Roberts commanding at St. Joseph's, and the second from Mr. Dickson, a gentleman every way capable of forming a correct judgment of the actual state of the Indians. Nothing can be more deplorable than his description. Yet the United States Government accuse Great Britain of instigating that people to war. Is not the true cause to be found in the state of desperation to which they are reduced by the unfriendly and unjust measures of that Government towards them ?

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 408.)

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 26, 1812.

(Abstract.)

A letter dated the 7th inst. has been received, announcing General Hull's arrival at Detroit with 2,000 men of the 4th United States Infantry, recruits of the 1st do. and Ohio volunteers, in good health and fine spirits. A regiment of the new army from Virginia, and recruits from Maryland and Pennsylvania, have been ordered to join him (General Dearborn) with the 5th Infantry, under Colonel Beall, and a detachment of Colonel Burn's dragoons, now concentrating at Trenton. By General Hull's letter of the 10th inst., it appears that supplies by the lake are cut off, and he has made arrangements for supplying his force from Ohio. General Winchester has been ordered to reinforce him from Kentucky with 1,500 men. You should cut off the British supplies by an adequate force at the rapids below Kingston.

YORK, July 28th, 1812.

Yesterday at an early hour His Honor Isaac Brock, Esq., President, administering the Government of Upper Canada and Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces therein, arrived at this place from Fort George, accompanied by a numerous suite, and proceeded to the Government building at 4 p. m., when he opened the present extra session of the Legislature, and delivered the following speech to both houses:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:—

The urgency of the present crisis is the only consideration which could have induced me to call you together at a time when public (as well as private) duties elsewhere demand your care and attention.

But, gentlemen, when invaded by an enemy whose avowed object is the entire conquest of this Province, the voice of loyalty as well as of interest calls aloud to every person in the sphere in which he is placed to defend his country.

Our militia have heard that voice and obeyed it. They have evinced by the promptitude and loyalty of their conduct that they are worthy of the King whom they serve and the Constitution which they enjoy, and it affords me particular satisfaction that while I address you as legislators I speak to men who in the day of danger will be ready to assist not only with their counsel but with their arms. We look, gentlemen, to our militia, then, as well

as to the regular forces, for our protection, but I should be wanting to that important trust committed to my care if I attempted to conceal (what experience, that great instructor of mankind, and especially of legislators, has shewn,) that amendment is necessary in our militia laws to render them efficient.

It is for you to consider what further improvements they may still require.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

From the history and experience of our Mother Country, we learn that in times of actual invasion or internal commotion the ordinary course of criminal law has been found inadequate to secure His Majesty's Government from private treachery, as well as from open disaffection, and that at such times its Legislature has found it expedient to enact laws restraining, for a limited period, the liberty of individuals in many cases where it would be dangerous to expose the particulars of the charge, and although the actual invasion of the Province might justify me in the exercise of the full powers reposed in me on such an emergency, yet it will be more agreeable to me to receive the sanction of the two houses.

A few traitors have already joined the enemy, have been suffered to come into the country with impunity, and have been harbored and concealed in the interior, yet the general spirit of loyalty which appears to pervade the inhabitants of this Province is such as to authorize a just expectation that their efforts to mislead and deceive will be unavailing. The disaffected, I am convinced, are few. To protect and defend the loyal inhabitants from their machinations is an object worthy of your most serious deliberations.

We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and despatch in our councils, and by vigor in our operations, we may teach the enemy this lesson: That a country defended by FREEMEN, enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, can never be conquered.

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, July 28th, 1812.

SIR,—I consider the enclosed letter (this instant received) from the Hon'ble James Baby of sufficient importance to forward by express.

I conceived the Long Point militia the most likely to show the

best disposition of any in this part of the country, and this refusal to join Captain Chambers shows the little dependence to be placed in any of them. My situation is getting each day more critical. I still mean to try and send a force to the relief of Amherstburg, but almost despair of succeeding. The population, although I had no great confidence in the majority, is worse than I expected to find it, and the magistrates, &c., &c., appear quite confounded, and decline acting—the consequence is the most improper conduct is tolerated. The officers of militia exert no authority. Everything shows as if a certainty existed of a change taking place soon. But I still hope the arrival of reinforcements may yet avert such a dire calamity. Many in that case would become active in our cause who are now dormant.

I have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of my speech to the two houses, delivered yesterday. A more decent house has not been elected since the formation of the Province, but I perceived at once that I shall get no good of them. They, like the magistrates and others in office, evidently mean to remain passive. The repeal of the *Habeas Corpus* will not pass, and if I have recourse to the law martial I am told the whole armed force will disperse. Never was an officer placed in a more awkward predicament. The militia cannot possibly be governed by the present law—all admit that fact, yet the fear of giving offence will prevent anything effectual from being effected. I entreat the advice of Your Excellency. Some letters received from individuals represent the conduct of the 41st above all praise. I cannot get a line from Colonel St. George. Colonel Procter was provokingly delayed on his journey. I entreat Your Excellency to excuse the haste with which I presume to address you.

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 217.)

Colonel Baynes to Colonel Lethbridge, Inspecting Field Officer of Militia at Kingston.

HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 28th July, 1812.

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Sir George would recommend the division from Kingston downwards being "left to you, which will enable General Brock to avail himself of General Shaw's services in the upper part of the country, where officers of rank and experience are much wanted."

(From MSS. in possession of Lieut.-Colonel George A. Shaw.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 28th July, 1812.

GENERAL HALL AND SUITE ARRIVED.

On Friday evening last General Hall arrived in this village, accompanied by Major William Howe Cuyler and George Hosmer, Esq., as aids-de-camp, and a body guard consisting of a detachment of fifteen men of the East Bloomfield Light Horse, commanded by Sergeant Boughton.

General Hall is now General-in-Chief on our frontier.

On Saturday the General, escorted by a number of the first characters of this village, moved to Black Rock, and after paying his respects to Colonel Swift and other officers, and reviewing and inspecting the troops, he returned to Buffalo.

On Sunday morning the General left this village for Lewiston.

The British have erected another breastwork in a circular form on the hill near Capt. Hardison's, opposite Black Rock. A number of soldiers are stationed behind it.

When General Hall and his suite and escort appeared at the Rock on Saturday it produced considerable bustle on the Canada shore. Expresses were sent off in various directions, troops were marched from Fort Erie to the breastworks, and four pieces of artillery were placed in front of Douglas's, opposite Lower Black Rock.

We learn that a number of soldiers at Black Rock remain sickly, that every attention is paid to them, and that none are dangerously ill.

At Lewiston we learn that the troops are generally healthy.

It is with pleasure we learn that strict and regular discipline prevails in the camp at Black Rock, and that the soldiers are orderly and the non-commissioned officers prompt and attentive in the discharge of their respective duties.

It is reported that a parcel of Indians have left Canada and landed on Grand Island (about 12 miles long and 10 broad, lying in the Niagara River, between Black Rock and Schlosser) for the purpose of making an attack on our frontiers. Two companies of volunteers are stationed on the river between Black Rock and Lewiston.

The Grand Island belongs to our Indians, and if any Indians are on the island it is very probable they are from this side for the purpose of killing game.

A SPY IN CUSTODY.

On Friday, the 24th inst., it was rumored that a man by the name of Elijah Clark, a subject of His Majesty in Upper Canada,

was on this side a few miles up the lake, lurking about apparently as a spy. Judge Barker, Capt. J. Wells, and some others, immediately went in pursuit of the fellow. They found Clark in the evening, and arrested him at the house of Mr. Lay, about twenty miles from this village. He appeared considerably agitated, and declined giving any satisfactory information as to his crossing the lake, or who or how many came with him, but by means of vigilance and good management they succeeded in arresting two others by the names of Aaron Brink and David Lee, who rowed the boat from Canada with Clark. On Saturday they were taken to Black Rock, and underwent an examination before Col. Swift and Major Miller. They were committed to the prison of this county till a court martial should be ordered by Major-General Hall. Brink and Lee have been removed from jail, and are under keepers. Clark is well guarded.

These criminals were all born in the United States, and till within a few years since have resided in this village. Clark is a merchant in Canada, a young man, a noisy politician, and always to be found in the majority in whatever government he resides.

Arrived in this village on Tuesday last, Mr. Asa H. Morse, a saddler from York, Upper Canada. Having the day previous left York for Newark on business, he was at Newark, by an officer in the fort (who understood he was an American) presented with three alternatives: to become a prisoner of war or take the oath of allegiance, or depart the country. He begged a little time to go back and settle up his business. The officer bid him "shut up his head." He *departed.*

The property of Mr. Morse thus jeopardized was worth about 500 dollars, which was his all.

Mr. Morse states that there were no regular troops at York, and but one company of volunteers; that the town was in no posture of defence, and that the ships of war at that place had all been ordered down the lake.

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

York, July 29, 1812.

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a despatch this instant received from Captain Roberts, announcing the surrender by capitulation on the 17th instant of Fort Michilimackinac.

The conduct of this officer since his appointment to the command of that distant post has been distinguished by much zeal and judgment, and his recent eminent display of those qualities Your Excellency will find has been attended with a most happy effect.

The militia stationed here volunteered this morning their services to any part of the province without the least hesitation. I have selected 100 whom I have directed to proceed without delay to Long Point, where I propose collecting a force for the relief of Amherstburg. This example, I hope, will be followed by as many as may be required. By the militia law, a man refusing to march may be fined £5 or confined three months, and although I have assembled the Legislature for the express purpose of amending the act, I much fear nothing will be done. Your Excellency will scarcely believe that this infatuated House of Assembly have refused by a majority of two to suspend even for a limited time the Habeas Corpus.

The capture of Michilimackinac may produce great changes to the westward. The actual invasion of the Province justifies every act of hostility on the American territory.

It was not till this morning that I was honored with Your Excellency's despatches, dated the 7th and 10th instant. Their contents, I beg to assure Your Excellency, have relieved my mind considerably. I doubt whether General Hull had instructions to cross to this side of the river. I rather suspect he was compelled by a want of provisions. I embark immediately in the *Prince Regent* for Fort George. I return here the day after to-morrow, and shall probably dissolve the Legislature.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 225-6. Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 236.)

Major-General Brock to Colonel Baynes.

York, July 29th, 1812.

Dear Colonel,—I was not favored with your letters of the 8th and 10th instant until this morning. I had not before received any official communication of war being declared, and I assure you began to fear that I was wholly forgot. My situation is most critical, not from anything the enemy can do, but from the disposition of the people—the population, believe me, is essentially bad—a full belief possesses them all that this Province must inevitably succumb—this prepossession is fatal to every exertion. Legislators, magistrates, militia officers, all have imbibed the idea, and are so sluggish and indifferent in their respective offices that the artful and active scoundrel is allowed to parade the country without interruption and commit all imaginable mischief. They are so alarmed of offending that they rather encourage than repress disorders and other improper acts. I really believe it is with some cause that they dread the vengeance of the democratic party, they

are such a set of unrelenting villains. But to business—several of my letters must have miscarried, otherwise you would have long since been aware that I requested to reinstate Lieut. Johnston in the Glengarry Regiment. He may not be very efficient, but then consider the claims of his family. Indeed the proposition came originally from you. Should Johnston be rejected, I am under previous engagements to Lamont, therefore cannot give ear to Fitz-Gibbon's application.

I have necessarily so many detachments along my widely extended frontier that I cannot possibly spare an officer. I have therefore detained Lieut. Kerr of the Glengarry. I am obliged to mix regulars with the militia, otherwise could not get on at all. It is a pity you did not understand his wishes in regard to the recruiting business.

What a change an additional regiment would make in this part of the Province. Most of the people have lost all confidence. I, however, speak loud and look big. Altho' you may not be able to cast a look this far, you must not omit Johnstown and Kingston. Some regulars will be highly necessary. I wish very much something might be done for Mr. Grant Powell. He was regularly brought up in England as a surgeon. I intended to have proposed to Sir George to appoint him permanent surgeon to the Marine Department, but I scarcely think that the situation would now answer. His abilities, I should think, might be usefully employed now that so many troops are called out.

Messrs. Dickson, Pothier and Crawford behaved nobly at the capture of Michilimackinac. This event may give a total change to the war in the west. Captain Roberts is spoken of in the highest terms.

(Canadian Archives, C. 676, p. 239.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Liverpool.

QUEBEC, 30th July, 1812.

(No. 60.)

MY LORD,—The exhausted state of the military chest, and the impossibility of supplementing it except from England, exposes His Majesty's service to serious difficulties, which will not be altogether removed by the Army Bill Law. I will have to contend in enforcing it against the deep-rooted prejudices of the Canadians against paper money. I enclose a representation from the Com-

missary General of the embarrassments in his department from the difficulties experienced in obtaining the smallest supply of money.

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(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 82.)

Commissary-General William H. Robinson to Sir George Prevost.

QUEBEC, 30th July, 1812.

SIR,—I have this evening received a letter from Deputy-Commissary-General Couche, which occasions me the greatest alarm. He informs me that Major-General Brock has ordered out 4,000 militia, and he begs to be informed in what manner they are to be paid. The expense attending this measure will be about £1,500, a sum which it will be impracticable to find in that country, nor have I the means of affording effectual assistance, and if the militia are not regularly paid great evil will ensue, indeed Mr. Couche represents that symptoms of discontent have already appeared. Besides this, various payments are already at a stand. The prospect of a paper medium being established will be a relief, but without the concurrence of the Legislature of Upper Canada it cannot be counted for a certain assistance, yet I submit the expediency of trying the experiment by sending a packet of our notes to General Brock.

Mr. Couche, in his letter of the 3rd inst., speaks of a currency on a limited scale under the auspices merely of the merchants, upon which he is now silent, therefore I conclude it has not produced the effect we had expected. I beg to suggest that His Majesty's Government be asked to send out specie before navigation closes.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 84.)

Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, July 31, 1812.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 20th instant, accompanied by a copy of two letters from Lieut.-Colonel St. George, who is in command at Amherstburg, and some interesting documents found on board a schooner which had been taken by the boats of the *Hunter*.

In consequence of your having desired Colonel Procter to proceed to Amherstburg and of your presence being necessary at the seat of government, I have taken upon myself to place Major-

General Sheaffe upon the staff, to enable me to send him to assist you in the arduous task you have to perform, in the able execution of which I have great confidence. He has been accordingly directed to proceed without delay to Upper Canada, there to place himself under your command.

I believe you are authorized by the commission under which you administer the Government of Upper Canada to declare martial law in the event of invasion or insurrection; it is therefore for you to consider whether you can obtain anything equivalent to that power from your legislature. I have not succeeded in obtaining a modification of it in Lower Canada, and must therefore upon the occurrence of either of these calamities declare the law martial unqualified, and of course shut the doors of the courts of the civil law.

The report transmitted by Captain Dixon of the Royal Engineers to Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres of the state of defence in which he had placed Fort Amherstburg, together with the description of the troops allotted for its defence, give me a foreboding that the result of General Hull's attempt upon that fort will terminate honorably to our arms.

If Lieut.-Colonel St. George be possessed of the talents and resources required to form a soldier, he is fortunate in the opportunity of displaying them. Should General Hull be compelled to relinquish his operations against Amherstburg it will be proper his future movements should be most carefully observed, as his late march exhibits a more than ordinary character of enterprise.

Your supposition of my slender means is but too correct; notwithstanding you may rely upon every exertion being made to preserve uninterrupted the communication between Kingston and Montreal, and that I will also give all possible support to your endeavors to overcome every difficulty.

The possession of Malden, which I consider means Amherstburg, appears a favorite object with the Government of the United States; I sincerely hope you will disappoint them.

Should the intelligence which arrived yesterday by the way of Newfoundland prove correct, a remarkable coincidence will exist in the revocation of our orders in Council as regards America and the declaration of war by Congress against England, both having taken place on the same day in London and at Washington, the 17th June.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 227-8.)

Major-General Dearborn to Major-General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, July 29th, 1812.

SIR,—Your situation, I presume, will enable you to ascertain what force the enemy can bring into action against offensive operations on our part at Kingston and its vicinity, and what forces, in addition to those under your command, would be necessary to render offensive operations in that quarter sure of success. Any information you can give me on this and all other points in relation to your command, and on the general state of things with you and in Upper Canada, is requested, and it is highly desirable that you afford me the earliest information from time to time of any occurrences in your vicinity sufficiently important to be communicated. You will readily perceive the expediency of employing suitable characters for obtaining and communicating to you correct information in relation to the enemy's force, and the disposition of the militia and inhabitants generally in the Province.

Proper encouragement should be given to such persons as you may confide in for their services in this employment, and I shall hold myself accountable for any necessary expenditure attendant on it. I have not had an opportunity of conferring with Governor Tompkins, but as he is shortly expected home I shall soon have the pleasure of a conference in relation to your command and the situation of the frontier generally. Not being informed of the extent of your command, I have written to the commanding officers at Niagara and Plattsburg, from the presumption that there might be three distinct commands, but if I am mistaken I trust no material inconvenience will result from it. Be assured, sir, that your appointment to your present command, your ready acceptance of it, and promptitude in repairing to the frontier, affords high satisfaction to our good citizens, and is peculiarly gratifying to your very humble servant.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 22.)

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 29, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Erastus Granger, authorizing him to organize the warriors of the Six Nations conditionally and report the corps to the commandant at Niagara. They should not be allowed to act except under authority of the commanding general.

Calvin Austin to Augustus Porter.

WARREN, May 5, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—In the month of Aug't, 1812, on my way to Detroit, and on my arrival at Miami, I found about 170 Indians in the settlement. I made an inquiry why they were there. It was stated by Amos Spafford, Esq'r, (then resident,) that they had left the mouth of the river from their planting ground on account of their being threatened by the hostile Indians, and were in a suffering condition for want of provisions. We then gathered them and had a talk, and I recommended that 50 rations per day should be issued by the agent, Capt. Daniel Reece. He supplied to the amount of 400 rations, and then was stopped by me, as I found that several of their young men had left that place and gone to Brownstown. I returned from the River Raisin and advised the Indians to proceed a few miles up the river and they would be secure, &c., &c.

N. B.—These Indians were of the Tawaway tribe.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Colonel Baynes to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, August 1, 1812.

SIR,—Sir George yesterday received your letter of the 20th with its several enclosures, which are, I assure you, highly interesting to all, and doubly so to those who feel warmly and sincerely attached to you, and few, I believe, possess more friends and well-wishers than yourself. 100 effectives of the Newfoundland and fifty picked men of the Veterans left this in boats on Thursday, and as it has blown a gale of east wind ever since, have, I trust, made great progress. They were intended to reinforce the garrison of Kingston and to relieve the company of the 49th that escorted stores to that place. Sir George regrets extremely his inability to render you a more efficient aid, but under existing circumstances he does not feel himself warranted to do more. I regret to find your militia at Sandwich so lukewarm, to call it by no harsher name, but I fear little can be expected from those recently settled or of American extraction, and with our Canadians we have found a very reluctant compliance. I trust we may still look for considerable reinforcements from home this year. We are led to expect the 1st battalion of the Royals from the West Indies immediately, destined, indeed, to relieve the 41st. I hope we shall not be disappointed, as our militia will feel bold if well backed, and I am sure Sir George will rejoice in receiving the means of rendering you

further assistance. It appears to be credited that the Orders-in-Council were rescinded in as far as regarded America on the 17th June, the day the war vote was carried. This will strengthen the oppositionists in the States, and the timid will feel alarmed, not without reason, when they read the glorious and judicious exploit of Captain Hotham in the Northumberland, 74, in destroying, under circumstances of great difficulty and peril, two French 44-gun frigates and a sloop, which received a superior degree of protection from batteries on the shore than can be afforded to Commodore Rodgers in any harbor of the States.

The Americans are forming depots in the neighborhood of the Montreal frontier and building bateaux on the lake, but they have not brought forward any considerable show of strength. On this appearance of weakness we cannot rely, as it would answer no good end making a parade before they intended to attack. If they be serious in their views on this Province, the attempt will probably be backed by predatory excursions on various points. A corps of militia is kept on the Point Levi side.

Our Legislature meet this day to terminate the session. Our great object has been accomplished in the House, adding the provincial security to the Army Note Bill. The province pays the interest accruing upon the notes and the expense of the establishment, and they are constituted a legal tender. Without this step we were completely at a stand, for we could not obtain money to pay the last month's subsistence to the troops. Great benefit is expected to accrue from the operation of the bill. The clergy have engaged to promote the circulation of the notes, all of which above twenty-five dollars bear interest, and all under are payable on demand.

Adieu, my dear general, may every success and good fortune attend you in the arduous task before you. We cannot command success, but I am sure you will not fail to merit it.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 228-31.)

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 1st August, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

Paymasters to the militia will be appointed at York, Fort George, Amherstburg and Kingston, who will regularly muster the militia on the 24th of each month, or as soon after as possible.

The officers in charge of the commissariat at Fort George, Amherstburg, Kingston and York will issue to the paymaster the

amount of the monthly estimates of the militia, which are to be certified by the commanding officer of the post, whether of the line or militia.

The paylists will be certified on oath by the captain or officer in command of companies, and the officer commanding the militia will examine and certify their belief as to the correctness of the account.

By command of the Major-Genl.

THOS. EVANS,
Major of Brigade.

Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres, Royal Engineers, to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, August 1, 1812.

SIR,—I take the favorable advantage of this being delivered to you by General Sheaffe to assure you of the sincere interest I feel in the very arduous and important position you are now placed in, to protect and defend a chain of posts and a country that has been so long neglected. This difficult task, placed in any other hands, I should consider very discouraging, but I acknowledge that I look with a certain degree of confidence to your abilities and perseverance in surmounting every difficulty that must unavoidably occur in a service of this nature. I most fervently and earnestly hope that every possible success may attend all your proceedings. I trust that you will always meet with zeal and activity in the officers of my department to perform every part of the duty allotted to their charge. It is very difficult at this distance to suggest any ideas that might be useful, as every operation in which you are engaged must depend so entirely upon local circumstances and the conduct which the enemy may pursue towards attaining the object he has in view. I am glad to find that the near arrival of the Royals, expected at Quebec to-morrow, will give you the reinforcement of the 49th Regiment, which, with the detachments of the Newfoundland and Veterans and gun-boat No. 7, will add something to your present strength.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 230-1.)

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, August 1, 1812.

(Abstract.)

He encloses a copy of a letter from General Hull, dated 19th July. You will make a diversion in favor of him at Niagara and Kingston as soon as practicable.

Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.

QUEBEC, August 2, 1812.

SIR,—Last evening an officer of the 98th Regiment arrived here express from Halifax, the bearer of despatches to me, dated on the 22d ultimo, from Mr. Foster, who was then in Nova Scotia.

I lose no time in making you acquainted with the substance of this gentleman's communication. He informs me that he has just received despatches from England, referring to a declaration of ministers in parliament relative to a proposed repeal of the Orders-in-Council provided the American Government would return to relations of amity with us, the contents of which may induce the American Government to agree to a suspension of hostilities as a preliminary to negotiations for peace; that he proposed sending His Majesty's hired armed ketch *Gleaner* to New York with letters to Mr. Baker, whom he had left at Washington in a demi-official capacity, with directions to communicate with the American minister and to write to me the result of his interview. Should the President of the United States think proper to signify that hostile operations should cease on the American side, Mr. Foster suggests the expediency of my being prepared to make a similar signification on our part.

As I propose sending Colonel Baynes immediately into the United States with a proposal for a cessation of hostile operations, I enclose for your information the copy of my letter to General Dearborn or the Commander-in-Chief of the American forces.

Mr. Foster also submits the propriety of our abstaining from an invasion of the United States territory, as only in such an event could the American Government be empowered to order the militia out of the States. I am led to believe from this that General Hull in possessing himself of Sandwich has exceeded his instructions, particularly as Mr. Foster informs me that Mr. Monroe had told him Fort Malden (Amherstburg) would not be attacked, but that General Hull had stated to a friend of his some time ago that he would attempt it.

A report has been made to me that a frigate and six transports, with the Royal Scots (1st battalion) on board from the West Indies, are just below Bic. In consequence of this reinforcement, I have ordered the company of the 49th Regiment sent to Kingston to remain there, and in addition to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and a detachment of an officer and 50 Veterans most fit for service, now on their route to that station, I shall order Major Ormsby with three companies of the 49th Regiment to proceed from Montreal to the same post to be disposed of as you may find it necessary.

Lieut.-General Sir J. C. Sherbrooke has informed me that one of the transports with part of the Royals on board has been captured by the United States frigate, the *Essex;* that she has been ransomed, and the officers and troops allowed to proceed upon condition that they are not to serve against the United States until regularly exchanged. The vessels and troops had arrived at Halifax and will shortly be sent hither.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 231-2.

Major-General Dearborn to Major-General VanRensselaer, or the Commanding Officer at Fort Niagara.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Aug. 3d, 1812.

SIR,—You will please take measures for keeping up a correspondence with General Hull and ascertain his movements by express or otherwise, and as he has crossed over to Upper Canada and taken possession of Fort Malden, it will be expedient to make every exertion in your power to co-operate with him. If your force will not admit of any strong offensive operations, it is highly desirable that such diversions should be made in his favor as will prevent the enemy from detaching any force from the vicinity of Niagara to oppose the movements of General Hull. I trust you will soon be called to act in a more decisive manner.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 22.)

District General Orders.

YORK, 3rd August, 1812.

D. General Orders.

1. Lieutenant-Colonel Myers will assume, during the absence of Colonel Procter, the command of the District of Niagara.

2. Major General Shaw, having offered his services in any manner in which they may be useful, Major-General Brock is pleased to appoint him to command between Chippawa and the Sugar Loaf, as Colonel of Militia, with the pay and allowance of Lieutenant-Colonel.

3. It is to be understood that no officer in the militia when embodied will receive a higher rate of pay than Lieutenant-Colonel, and that officers of every rank are subject to the same deductions as the line, including the income tax.

By command of the Major-General,

J. B. GLEGG, A. D. C.

Proceedings of a Council held at York Respecting the Western Frontier.

AT A COUNCIL HELD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, YORK, UPPER CANADA,

MONDAY, August 3d, 1812.

Present,—

Major-General Brock.
Honble The Chief Justice.
" James Baby.
" Alexander Grant.
" John McGill.
" Mr. Justice Powell.
" Prideaux Selby.

His Honor the President represented to the Board that the hopes he had entertained from the call of the Legislature were likely to be disappointed.

That the Lower House of Assembly, instead of prompt exertions to strengthen his hands for the government of the militia, providing for security from internal treason by partial suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, authorizing a partial exercise of Martial Law concurrently with the ordinary course of justice, and placing at his disposal for the defence of the Province the funds not actually applied upon past appropriations, had consumed eight days in carrying a single measure of party—the repeal of the School Bill, and passing an act for the public disclosure of treasonable practices before the Magistrates should have power to commit without bail. That under such circumstances little could be expected from a prolonged session of the Legislature.

That the enemy had invaded and taken post in the Western District; was multiplying daily his preparation to invade in others; that the militia, in a perfect state of insubordination, had withdrawn from the ranks in actual service; had refused to march, when legally commanded, to reinforce a detachment of the regular force for the relief of Amherstburg; had insulted their officers, and some not immediately embodied had manifested in many instances a treasonable spirit of neutrality or disaffection.

That the Indians on the Grand River, tampered with by the disaffected whites, had withdrawn from their volunteer services and declared for a neutrality which in respect of them was equally inadmissible as with the King's other subjects.

That in the Western and London Districts several persons had negotiated with the enemy's commander, hailing his arrival and pledging support. That the regular force consisted of one regiment, the 41st, nine hundred strong, and part of the Royal New-

foundland Regiment, two hundred, with a detachment of Royal Artillery and several armed vessels. That the extent of coast exposed and the great distance of the prominent points had obliged him to divide that force to support and countenance the militia. That the conduct of the western militia had exposed to imminent danger the regular force at Amherstburg, and, however inconvenient, he had made a large detachment of the 41st and militia from the Home and Niagara Districts, with the few Indians not corrupted, to reinforce that garrison if time would admit.

That, on the other hand, the Commandant at St. Joseph had, with the garrison and Indians, taken the Island of Michilimackinac, the garrison of which capitulated without firing a shot.

That in all probability part of that force might descend to Detroit, and in such case a co-operation with the garrison at Fort Amherstburg, reinforced by the detachment now on its march to Long Point, might compel the invaders to retire or surrender, but that no good result from any military expedition could be expected unless more powerful restraint could be imposed on the militia than the actual law admits, and that he had power to restrain the general population from treasonable adherence with the enemy or neutrality by summary proceeding and punishment, nor could the colony be considered safe from the Indians in its very bosom whilst liable to be tampered with by disaffected persons, exposed only to the slow progress of conviction by criminal law.

That with this view of the situation of the Colony, he submitted for the consideration of the Council how far it might be expedient to prorogue the General House of Assembly and proclaim martial law under the powers of the King's Commission, in case of invasion.

The Council adjourned for deliberation.

TUESDAY, 4th August.

The Council met from adjournment of yesterday.

Present,—

The same members.

The Council having deliberated upon His Honor's representation is unanimously of the opinion that under the circumstances of the Colony, it is expedient upon the prorogation of the General Assembly to proclaim and exercise Martial Law, according to the powers of His Majesty's Commission to the Governor-General.

(Canadian Archives, Q., 118, p. 187.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, August 4, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a statement made by me yesterday to His Majesty's Executive Council, which will fully apprize Your Excellency of my situation. The Council adjourned for deliberation, and I have no doubt will recommend the prorogation of the Assembly and proclamation declaring martial law; but doubts occurred in contemplation of such an event, which I take the liberty to submit to Your Excellency and request the aid of your experience and superior judgment.

1. In the event of declaring martial law, can I, without the sign manual, approve and carry into effect the sentence of a general courtmartial?

2. Can I put upon a general courtmartial after martial law is proclaimed any person not a commissioned officer in His Majesty's regular forces? In other words, can officers of the militia set in conjunction with those of the line?

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 232-3.)

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, August 4, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Informing him that the light artillery and Simond's regiment have been ordered to proceed to Albany.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 4th August, 1812.

The account of Hull's occupying Sandwich was known at Newark four or five days before it arrived here, the distance from Detroit to Newark being much less than the route on our side of the lake. It is presumed that troops were immediately sent to Malden, as for ten or twelve days past there have been several movements of British troops on the Niagara River. On Saturday last we are informed that one company of regulars and five flank companies (militia) were sent up to the head of Lake Ontario in boats, from thence (distance about 30 miles) to Detroit River, and to sail down the same to Malden. The flags of truce which so frequently passed and re-passed at Black Rock and other places on the Niagara River during the two first weeks of the war have, we believe, been entirely discontinued. No event of importance has

transpired on our frontier since our last. The health of the troops is not materially changed. There has been one death at the Rock last week, and one now lies dangerously ill.

Yesterday a British armed vessel (supposed to be the one lately built at Long Point) came down and anchored at Fort Erie —a merchant vessel came in company, name not known, probably a prize to the arrived ship.

Tuesday morning, 8 o'clock. The brig *Hunter*, ship of war, and sch'r *Nancy*, have left Fort Erie and gone up the lake, probably loaded with military stores for Malden.

INDIAN LOGIC.—The rumor of the British and Indians taking possession of Grand Island (situated in Niagara River and owned by the Senecas) having reached the Senecas, they assembled for the purpose of counselling with their agent, Mr. Granger, on the subject. The famous Red Jacket, after having stated the information they had received, addressed the agent in the following manner:—

BROTHER,—You have told us that we had nothing to do with the war between you and the British, but we find the war has come to our own doors. Our property is taken possession of by the British and their Indian friends. It is necessary for us now to take up the business, defend our property, and drive the enemy from it. If we sit still upon our seats and take no measures of redress the British (according to the customs of you white people) will hold it by conquest, and should you conquer the Canadas, you will claim it upon the same principle, as conquered from the British. We therefore request permission to go with our warriors and drive off those bad people and take possession of our lands.

District General Orders.

YORK, 5th August, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The business of the commissariat at this post having decreased, Major-General Brock has appointed Mr. William Stanton to act as paymaster to the militia for the York District until further orders. Mr. Stanton is to receive no pay for performing this duty other than what he derived from his situation in the Commissariat Department.

By order of the Major-General.

J. B. GLEGG,
Captn., A. D. C.

From the New York Evening Post, Thursday, 13th August, 1812.

ALBANY, August 10.

We are sorry to learn that most of the young men of the St. Regis tribe of Indians have left their settlement to join the British forces, and that Colonel Louis and several of the aged chiefs friendly to the United States have from fear of their safety also fled from their settlement and taken refuge within the County of Franklin, where they are now supported at the expense of the United States.

(File in the New York Society Library.)

Major-General VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

BUFFALO, 11th August, 1812, 6 p. m.

SIR,—I have to advise Your Excellency that I arrived here last evening, and various considerations induced me to adopt measures for obtaining satisfactory information respecting the situation of General Hull. Accordingly I this morning sent my aide-de-camp to Black Rock, having heard that Judge Porter, brother of the Quartermaster-General, had lately returned from Detroit. Colonel Van Rensselaer has returned, having had a conference with the Quartermaster-General and Judge Porter. The result of the information obtained is substantially this: That Judge Porter left Detroit on the 29th ult.; Gen. Hull was entrenching himself opposite Detroit, and Fort Malden was not taken, as has been reported. Genl. Hull's force was eight hundred. At Brownstown, below Detroit, are fifteen hundred hostile Indians. The Quartermaster-General has lately sent several boats with provisions for General Hull, but unfortunately one boat was taken by the enemy, and unfavorable apprehensions are entertained for the other boats.

It is here generally believed that detachments of troops have been sent from Fort George to relieve Fort Malden; the number remaining behind I have not been able to ascertain, but shall endeavor to make this an object of early enquiry. It is said that the enemy abound on the opposite shore with ordnance and every munition of war. We are here, as indeed at all our posts, lamentably deficient in ordnance. The situation of Ogdensburg, and the necessity of supplying it with heavy ordnance, I have before stated to Your Excellency in my letter by express from that place. Every consideration connected with the success of any operation in this quarter urges me to solicit the earliest possible supply of heavy ordnance and some skilful engineers and artillerists. Without such aid and supplies I can hardly conceive how it will be possible for

us to achieve anything of importance or even to defend our posts in case of an attack from the enemy.

I have spent a part of this day with Red Jacket, Cornplanter and a number of other Indians of influence. They very kindly consider me as the messenger of peace and friendship, especially delegated by Your Excellency. Their professions are unreservedly friendly and I believe sincere.

I have this day received a letter from Major-General Dearborn, in which he speaks of Fort Malden being taken. I have given him such information as I possess on that subject.

I shall to-morrow proceed to Black Rock and Lewiston and make further communications of every incident of importance.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VIII., pp. 58-61, New York State Library.)

Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

MONTREAL, August 12, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 4th instant, enclosing the proceedings of the Executive Council of the 3d, Captain Glegg's letter of the 5th instant, transmitting copies of letters from Colonel Procter to you of the 26th and 30th July, with the correspondence between Brigadier-General Hull and Lieut.-Colonel St. George, and the intercepted correspondence of the former, together with your letter to Colonel Baynes of the 4th instant, were all delivered to me on my arrival at this place yesterday. The information they contain is highly interesting, and I lose no time in despatching to you Brigade-Major Shekleton as the bearer of this letter and for the purpose of receiving whatever communication you may have to make in return. Being fully aware of the necessity of affording you such reinforcements as the exigencies of the service in other parts of the two Provinces would permit, I had previous to the receipt of your letter made arrangements for that purpose.

Major Ormsby, with three companies of the 49th Regiment, protecting a considerable supply of ordnance and ordnance stores, left Lachine on the 6th instant for Kingston and Fort George, taking with him £2,500 for the payment of the regular and militia forces. Major Heathcote, with one company of the 49th Regiment, about 110 men of the Newfoundland Regiment and 50 picked Veterans, are to leave Lachine on the 13th instant. With this detachment an additional supply of ordnance stores and camp equipage for 500 men will be forwarded for Upper Canada, and, as soon as a sufficiency of bateaux can again be collected at Lachine, Colonel Vincent is under orders to proceed to Kingston with the

remainder of the 49th Regiment and a subaltern of the Royal Artillery and ten gunners with two 3-pounders.

When these reinforcements reach you, they will, I trust, enable you successfully to resist the internal (as well as external) enemies opposed to you and materially aid the able measures you have adopted for the defence of Upper Canada. With regard to the queries you have submitted to me on the subject of martial law, I have to observe that it has not fallen within my experience to see martial law proclaimed except in those places where it has been declared under the authority of a provincial legislature, which of course regulated the mode in which it was to be executed. As the martial law you propose declaring is founded on the King's commission and upon the extreme case of invasion alluded to in it, I am inclined to think that whatever power is necessary for carrying the measure into effect must have been intended to have been given you by the commission, and consequently that the power of assembling courts martial and of carrying their sentences into execution is included in the authority for declaring martial law. The officers of militia becoming themselves subject to martial law when it is declared, I conceive they may sit upon courts martial with officers of His Majesty's regular forces, but upon both these points I desire not to be understood as speaking decisively—extreme cases must be met by measures which, on ordinary occasions, would not perhaps be justified. Your situation is such as to warrant your resorting to any step which in your judgment the public safety may require. I should therefore think that after taking the best opinions that you can obtain from the first law characters you have about you, respecting the doubts you entertain on this subject, you need not hesitate to determine upon that line of conduct which you shall think will best promote the good of the service, trusting, if you do err, to the absolute necessity of the measure you may adopt as your justification for them to His Majesty's Government.

Your letters of the 26th, 28th, and 29th July, with the several enclosures and papers accompanying them, were received by me shortly previous to my leaving Quebec, the last containing Captain Roberts' official account of the capture of Fort Michilimackinac. Great credit is certainly due to that officer for the zeal and promptitude with which he has performed that service—at the same time, I must confess, my mind has been very much relieved by finding that the capture took place at a period subsequent to Brigadier-General Hull's invasion of the Province, as had it been prior to it, it would not only have been in violation of Captain Roberts's orders, but have afforded a just ground for the subsequent conduct of the enemy, which I now plainly perceive no forbearance on your

part could have prevented. The capture of this place will, I hope, enable the Indian tribes in that quarter to co-operate with you in your present movements against the enemy, by threatening his flanks, a diversion which would greatly alarm him and probably have the effect of compelling him to retreat across the river.

I send you enclosed a copy of the official repeal of the orders in council, which I received last night (by express) from Quebec. Although I much doubt whether this step on the part of our Government will have any effect upon that of the United States, the circulation of a paper evincing their conciliatory disposition may tend to increase and strengthen the divisions which subsist among the people upon the subject of the war. I therefore recommend you to have a number of copies struck off and distributed.

Colonel Baynes is still absent upon his mission to the enemy's camp. Your letter to him of the 29th ultimo was received at the same time with those I have last acknowledged. Colonel Lethbridge I have directed to return to Montreal.

The issue of army bills has taken place at Quebec, and I hope to be able shortly to send you a supply of them.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 233-6.)

Major-General Dearborn to Major-General Amos Hall, or Commanding Officer on the Niagara Frontier.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Aug. 8, 1812.

SIR,—Having received from Sir George Prevost, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Canada by Col. Baynes, his Adjutant-General, despatches from England to our Government of a conciliatory nature, and a proposition on the part of Sir George Prevost, for a mutual cessation of hostilities on the frontiers, I have so far complied with the proposition as to agree to direct the respective commanding officers on the side of the United States to confine their respective operations to defensive measures until they receive further orders. Similar orders are given to the British commanders. You will therefore confine the operations of the troops under your command to defensive measures until they receive further orders. It being explicitly understood that if General Hull should continue to act offensively and any movement of the enemy's troops in your vicinity should take place with a view to offensive operations, it will be considered as an infraction of the agreement, and you will govern yourself accordingly.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 24.)

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Aug. 8, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Should the recruits and volunteers be inadequate for immediate operations he is instructed to call out as many militia as he may need. The repeated attacks of the enemy in the vicinity of Sackett's Harbor require prompt and energetic movements in the vicinity of the lakes.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 11th August, 1812.)

On Friday and Saturday of last week *eleven native born* citizens of the United States deserted from the British ranks, seized boats, and, crossing Lake Erie, landed eight of them at Canadaway, in Chautauqua County, and the other three at the mouth of Buffalo Creek. They were examined and suffered to depart. Their countenances bespoke the joy and satisfaction they felt on having thus so happily made their escape. They inform us that the British are withdrawing almost all their forces from the Niagara lines to meet General Hull at Fort Malden. If this be true we are led to believe:

There is a tide in the affairs of *war*, which taken at the *ebb* leads on to fortune.

Last Wednesday, before a general court martial, held at the court house in this village, Colonel Philetus Swift, President, commenced the trial of *Elijah Clark*. The charge brought against him was that of being a British spy. The trial continued until Saturday about noon. The decision is not yet known, and probably will not be for several days.

At an Indian Council, held at Cattaraugus on the 29th July, the Indian chiefs requested that no more whiskey should be sold to the Indians.

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, BANKS OF LAKE ERIE,
15 MILES S. W. OF PORT TALBOT,
August 11th, 1812, 6 o'clock p. m.

D. General Orders.

The troops will hold themselves in readiness and will embark in the boats at twelve o'clock this night precisely.

It is Major-General Brock's positive orders that none of the boats go ahead of that in which is the Headquarters, where a light will be carried during the night.

The officers commanding the different boats will immediately

inspect the arms and ammunition of the men and see that they are constantly kept in a state for immediate service, as the troops are now to pass through a part of the country which is known to have been visited by the enemy's patroles.

A captain with a subaltern and thirty men will mount as piquet upon the landing of the boats, and a sentry will be furnished from each boat, who must be regularly relieved, to take charge of the boat and baggage, &c.

A patrole from the piquet will be sent out on landing to the distance of a mile from the encampment.

By order of the Major-General,

J. B. GLEGG, Capt'n, A. D. C.
J. MACDONELL, P. A. D. C.

Samuel S. Connor, A. D. C. to Major-General Dearborn, to the Commanding Officer at Niagara.

(Undated.)

SIR,—You will please to communicate the enclosed communication, which is from the British Adjutant-General, to the British commanding officer opposite Niagara and Detroit, that he may immediately communicate it to Col. Procter.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 25.)

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, POINT AUX PINS,
LAKE ERIE, August 12th, 1812.

D. General Orders.

It is Major-General Brock's intention, should the wind continue fair, to proceed during the night. Officers commanding boats will therefore pay attention to the order of sailing as directed yesterday. The greatest care and attention will be requisite to prevent the boats from scattering or falling behind.

A great part of the bank of the lake where the boats will this day pass is much more dangerous and difficult of access than any we have passed. The boats will therefore not land excepting in the most extreme necessity, and the greatest care must be taken to choose the best places for landing.

The troops being now in the neighborhood of the enemy, every precaution must be taken to guard against surprise.

By order of the Major-General.

J. B. GLEGG,
Capt'n, A. D. C.

Colonel Baynes to Major-General Brock.

MONTREAL, August 13, 1812.

SIR,—I wrote to you from Albany on the 8th instant, but as my letter was submitted to the inspection of General Dearborn I, of course, confined myself to the sole subject of the armistice entered into with that officer. . . . . A clause admitting reinforcements to pass with stores was readily agreed to on my part. General Dearborn told me that a considerable reinforcement (with stores) was on its way to Niagara, and that he could not delay or alter its destination. I informed him that we were also forwarding reinforcements and stores, and that it would be advisable to agree that all movements of that nature on either side should be suffered to proceed unmolestedly by troops under instructions to preserve defensive measures. I am apprehensive that General Dearborn may not explicitly explain all these points, and I have therefore cautioned all the officers to whom I have communicated them to act with the utmost caution, and to be prepared for all events that may arise. I feel extremely prepossessed in favor of General Dearborn, whose manners appear to evince great candor and sincerity. He assured me that no event of his life would afford him so much happiness as resigning his command in consequence of our honorable adjustment of differences. He told me that General Hull was placed under his orders merely for form's sake, but that he acted by particular instructions from the War Department, and would not consider himself bound to obey any order that was not in conformity with them. . . .

. . . . . .

Under all these circumstances, which I have represented to Sir George, I have strongly urged his sending you further reinforcements, which I am sure can be spared. We are at present checked for want of conveyance, but I trust that after the troops now on their route are despatched that Sir George will be induced to send you further aid and that of the best description. I think it of the highest importance, particularly if we are likely to arrange matters with the States, that the balance of military events should be unequivocally in our favor. I found a very general prejudice prevailing with Jonathan of his own resources and means of invading these provinces, and of our weakness and inability to resist, both exaggerated in a most absurd and extravagant degree. A little practical correction of this error would be attended with the best effects.

The 1st battalion of the Royals are upwards of 1,100 strong,

but sickly, having suffered from their long residence in the West Indies, and they are in consequence marked for the Quebec garrison.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 298-300.)

General Amos Hall to Governor Tompkins.

MANCHESTER, August 13, 1812.

SIR,—In conformity with your directions in your letter of the 8th of July, I repaired without delay to the Niagara frontier. On my arrival I found that considerable apprehension was entertained of an invasion, but before I could form an opinion as to the fact, I found that it would be necessary for me to take a general view of the lines. I spent about a week in the examination and in making such disposition of the troops as appeared to me best calculated to protect and guard the frontier. I, however, found it difficult with the force we had on the lines to distribute the men so as to form a chain of centinels and patrols from lake to lake, and have men left off guard duty sufficient to erect such batteries as have by the advice of Genl. Gray been erected, and to perform other necessary fatigue duty.

One battery has been built on the brow of the hill above Lewiston, which will completely command two batteries erected by the enemy on the opposite side of the river, one being a little below the house of Benjamin Barton, the other about one-third of the way up the hill above Queenston. We have another battery of considerable length erected on the rise of ground opposite lower Black Rock, in front of the barracks. That, however, I consider a protecting rather than commanding work. Another small work has been nearly completed, and has been erected under cover of a thin wood, about half a mile up the river from the barracks. This is thought by General Gray (who is our chief engineer) to be a very commanding piece of ground. It is a small battery, calculated to mount one heavy piece of artillery.

The situation of the batteries erected by the enemy on the opposite side of the river are very correctly described in the eastern papers, and particularly in the papers printed in Canandaigua, which you have undoubtedly seen. No new batteries have been erected on the opposite shore within eight or ten days past.

Our batteries are now nearly ready to receive several pieces of ordnance, and some should be heavy. But the misfortune is we have nothing of the kind. We have only four pieces of field artillery, except what are in the garrison: two four and two six-pounders. Those pieces of heavy artillery mentioned in your letter of the 8th of July have not arrived.

We have had thoughts of supplying ourselves with ordnance from the batteries on the Canada shore. But being well assured that many of the inhabitants are favorable to receiving our troops and would give us aid if we should come in sufficient force to give them protection, and knowing their situation to be such that they would be obliged to take arms if any trifling invasion should be made, it has been thought most advisable to make no attempt until an efficient force might cross, such as to give general protection.

The Quartermaster-General has commenced building boats at Manchester (near the falls), and by the assistance of fatigue parties from the lines we are in hopes to have forty boats completed within two or three weeks at the farthest.

I consider it a great misfortune that we are not now provided with boats and a sufficient number of troops to cross the river. It is a favorable moment, and I regret very much indeed that we are not prepared to improve it.

Detachments of the regular troops and of the militia have within the last ten or fifteen days been ordered up Lake Erie by water, and across the country to Fort Malden, to reinforce the British army in that quarter.

I am very anxious for the fate of General Hull's army, which did not (I have been informed) exceed twenty-two hundred when he crossed the river. Had we had a suitable force and been provided with boats, it would have been in our power to have prevented reinforcements from leaving this part of Upper Canada to the relief of Malden. But boats we had none, and not a sufficient number of troops to have warranted an attack.

We are informed, and I believe the information correct, that the whole force at Fort Erie, and the batteries in its vicinity, did not a few days since amount to more than two or three hundred men at most, and at Fort George their strength, we have reason to believe, is nearly in the same proportion. But the enemy, knowing that we had no means of crossing the river, ventured to leave their forts thus thinly garrisoned.

My opinion is that three thousand men, in addition to our present force, would be sufficient to enable us to erect the American standard on the Canadian side, and support it against any force that could be raised, unless General Hull should be defeated and the troops from that quarter, with a large force of Indians that would immediately follow them, should return to oppose us. In that event, flushed as they would be with victory, a much larger would be necessary. Our lines are at present thinly guarded, and guard duty is hard on the men. It would be a great relief should Your Excellency see fit to order on the 19th regiment detached from

the counties of Cayuga and Seneca, the command of which has been assigned to Lieutenant-Colonel Bloom. In case of invasion, or should it be thought advisable to make a descent into Upper Canada, many of the militia in the western part of the State would volunteer. There has been several tenders of the services of companies and battalions since I have been on the lines.

The troops now on the lines are stationed as follows:—Lieut.-Colonel Swift's regiment at Black Rock, except one company on command at Buffalo; four companies of Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin's regiment and one company of Lieut.-Colonel Allen's regiment at the camp near old Fort Schlosser; Captain Dox's volunteer company and three companies of Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin's regiment at Lewiston; Lieut.-Colonel Allen's regiment, excepting one company at the Five Mile Meadows, between Lewiston and Fort Niagara. Part of the regular troops are at Youngstown, the remainder in the garrison.

Our whole force cannot be estimated to exceed fourteen hundred effective men. Twelve dragoons are distributed at the different posts on the lines, who answer for expresses and patrols.

An express has been sent to General Hull, advising him of the reinforcement sent on by General Brock from the British lines and vicinity of the Niagara frontier. The express went from Buffalo on the 5th inst. and reached Cuyahoga in two days. But Judge Porter, who arrived last evening from Detroit, is apprehensive that the communication will be cut off before the express will be able to get through, for he states that McKee, with some other Indian leaders, with about 300 Indians, were at a place called Brownstown, nearly opposite Malden, a short time before he with about forty others came into town, but had crossed over to Malden. He expects all communication will be cut off by this party.

Judge Porter brings reports that Michilimackinac has been taken, that it was given up on summons, not a gun fired. There were seventy men in garrison and about one hundred of the enemy; from twelve to twenty only were white men, the remainder Indians.

General Hull, he states, is erecting a fort nearly opposite Detroit, where he will act on the defensive until he receives a reinforcement. I hope it may arrive in season.

It appears by Judge Porter's account that the General had but 850 effective men on his return with him when he was at Sandwich about two weeks since. There probably might have been about two hundred on command. Admitting that calculation to be correct, one thousand would be all his force. This is a small army in an enemy's country, widely different from being in possession of Malden, as stated in our first accounts.

General Van Rensselaer and suite arrived at this place last evening. He will proceed to the garrison to-morrow. After taking a view of the lines he will take command on this station.

In compliance with Your Excellency's orders, I came on to these lines. I now wait your further orders respecting my services.

The troops here are generally healthy, excepting slight turns of the distempers incident to camps on their first formation. There have been but few cases of fever taken place in the camp for the number of men and the season of the year.

N. B.—August 14.—General Van Rensselaer has taken the command on this station. I find by General Orders by him on the 13th July that he is authorized to call out such parts of the detachments as he may think necessary. He appears very anxious to have it in his power to do something for his country; he will order on more troops immediately.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VIII., pp. 53-8, New York State Library.)

From the New York Evening Post, Thursday, 27th August, 1812.

BATAVIA, August 13.

Extract of a letter dated at Buffalo, August 13:

This afternoon the British began to build a breastwork nearly opposite Black Rock. They were scattered in every direction by one discharge of a six-pounder from our shore. The ball struck near the laborers. All was confusion for a short time. An officer on horseback was immediately despatched to Fort Erie. To-morrow morning the British will no doubt resume work.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 26th August, 1812.

CANANDAIGUA, August 13.

We are told that the gentleman who brought General Hull's proclamation to the Niagara frontiers turns out to be a citizen of Canada, sent over in the night from Fort Erie, where the proclamation had been received several days earlier than on our side. Calculating on our *snail-like* way of transmitting intelligence, the fellow availed himself of General Hull's paper, which served as a good passport, and, appearing in the capacity of an express, found

no difficulty in obtaining information which was his *express* view, and after spending several days along the line he re-crossed in a boat rowed by two men from the British fort.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, Aug. 13th, 1812.

Major-General VanRensselaer having been appointed to the command of the troops on the northern and western frontiers of this State, announces his arrival. Having assumed this command, the General assures the officers and soldiers that as on their part he will require prompt obedience to orders and strict discipline, so from him they may expect his unremitting exertions to render their situation at all times as eligible as possible, and when their exertions shall be called for against the enemy he trusts with confidence that they will be such as will redound to the honor of the troops and the service of the country.

The troops at Lewiston will be reviewed and inspected at 10 o'clock to-morrow ; for that purpose blank returns will be furnished.

An accurate inspection return will be made out by the commanding officers of companies, who are to account for their men, arms, and accoutrements. In their returns they will note the deficiencies of arms or accoutrements, to the end that measures may be adopted to obtain supplies from the proper departments.

By order of Major-General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, 13th Aug., 1812.

The Nineteenth detached regiment of militia of this State, commanded by Lt.-Col. Henry Bloom, being part of General William Wadsworth's detached brigade, pursuant to the directions of the President of the United States, is hereby ordered into the service of the United States, and is to repair to Lewiston or Black Rock and receive and obey the orders of the commanding officer in the service of the United States at that frontier. The regiment will rendezvous in battalions or by regiment, as may be directed by Brigadier-Genl. John Tillotson, who is the senior brigadier-general and will act as Commandant of the seventh division of the militia of this State, in the absence of Major-General Hall.

The non-commissioned officers and privates must severally appear at the place of rendezvous armed with a musket or rifle and equipments accordingly, and with a knapsack, blanket, canteen and necessary clothing. Tents and camp equipage will be provided and be ready for the use of the regiment at the times and places of rendezvous.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

ANTHONY LAMB, Aid-de-Camp.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

NIAGARA FALLS, August 14, 1812.

. . . . . .

I wrote to VanVechten by the last mail the situation of General Hull. I am inclined to think he is not in a very eligible situation. General Dearborn believes Fort Malden is taken, but it is *not* true. Now, in justification of our General, who God knows would serve his country if he could, I made a little sketch of the country, &c., where and how Hull is situated, in my letter to Van Vechten; read that and you will see what condition we are in, but how is that possible in our present condition? We have eleven cannon for all our extensive lines; no works of any consequence except old Fort Niagara, and that, though once a masterpiece, is all going to decay. From Buffalo to Niagara, both inclusive, we have not 1,000 militia. Capt. Leonard of the garrison at Niagara told me this afternoon that our regulars are 360 and no more. Wait another sentence. Although General Van Rensselaer is incessantly pressing the Commander-in-Chief with that indispensable necessity of a competent supply of heavy ordnance, for engineers, artillerists, still a noble company of 106 artillerists at Niagara are in two or three days to take up their line of march for Albany. This Capt. Leonard told me this day. After all you have heard, you will not, you cannot, believe me, but *hear* me and wait until the next mail, when we shall send the Commander-in-Chief our inspection returns for all the posts. Now, as to the enemy—although they have sent off large detachments, General Wadsworth, who commanded at Lewiston, told me today 1,000 from Niagara to reinforce Fort Malden, yet they appear to be alert all along the lines, yet exceeding civil, and still with ordnance of every description and all the munitions of war they abound.

Every three or four miles on every prominent point or eminence there you see a snug battery thrown up, and the *last* saucy

arguments of Kings poking their white noses and round black nostrils right upon your face, ready to spit fire, ball, and brimstone in your very teeth if you were offer to turn squatter on John Bull's land. Niagara, on the British side, or as it is sometimes called Newark, I mean at Lake Ontario, looks wicked everywhere. It is a charming, fertile, broad village, but all a camp, fortified at every point. Capt. Leonard was this afternoon in my presence asked seriously for his professional answer as an able, gallant, and experienced officer: "What number of troops would be competent to promise success in an attack upon Fort George, that is, their main work." I heard the answer: "*Not less than* 2,000 well disciplined troops." Those who know Leonard will believe, for they must respect his opinion. No sooner did we approach with our cavalcade than away ran expresses on the opposite shore at full speed. Here again I saw our old friend, the *Earl of Moira*. While we were reconnoitering the works the *Prince Regent* up sails and stood off north. "Now let the reasonable part of the world judge why Gen. VanRensselaer *cannot act.*

(From a Legacy of Historical Gleanings, by Mrs. C. V. R. Bonney, Albany, N. Y., 1875.

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT AMHERSTBURG,
August 14th, 1812.

[Circular.]

D. General Orders.

Major-General Brock announces his arrival to the troops quartered in the Western District, and directs officers in command will immediately transmit returns of their respective corps.

The Major-General congratulates the troops on the evacuation of the country by the enemy. He is persuaded that nothing but the spirit manifested by those who have remained doing duty, and the judicious measures adopted by Colonel Procter, have compelled him to so disgraceful a retreat.

Colonel Elliott and Major McKee and the officers of the Indian Department are entitled to his best thanks for their judicious management of the Indians, and for the example of gallantry which they have uniformly shown before the enemy.

The Major-General cannot avoid expressing his surprise at the numerous desertions which have occurred from the ranks of the militia, to which circumstance the long stay of the enemy on this side of the river must in a great measure be ascribed. He is willing to believe that their conduct proceeded from an anxiety to get

in their harvests and not from any predilection for the principles or Government of the United States. He requests officers commanding corps to transmit to him the names of such militiamen as have remained faithful to their oath and duty, that immediate measures may be taken to discharge their arrears of pay.

The enemy being still in the neighborhood, the whole physical force of the country will be employed to drive him to such a distance as will ensure its tranquillity.

Officers commanding militia corps are responsible that every individual bound to embody himself do immediately repair to this station, in default of which he will be treated as a deserter and subjected to all the penalties of the new Militia Act.

Captains Muir, Tallon, and Chambers, 41st Regiment; Captain Glegg, 49th Regiment; Captain Mockler, Newfoundland Regt., and Captain Dixon, Royal Engineers, are appointed to the rank of Major so long as the local service on which they are employed continues.

The troops in the Western District will be formed into three brigades: The first, under Lieut.-Colonel St. George, to consist of detachments of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and of the Kent and First and Second Regiments Essex Militia. The Second, under the command of Major Chambers, consisting of fifty men of 41st Regiment, and the whole of the detachments of York, Lincoln, Oxford, and Norfolk Militia. The Third Brigade, under the command of Major Tallon, will consist of the remainder of the 41st Regiment.

Colonel Procter will have charge of the whole line, under the orders of the Major-General.

James Givins, Esquire, late Captain 5th Regiment, is appointed Provincial Aid-de-Camp, with the rank of Major in the Militia.

By order of the Major-General.

J. B. GLEGG, Major, A. D. C.

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT AMHERSTBURG,
August 15th, 1812.

D. General Orders.

The troops will be in readiness to embark at McGee's Point at three o'clock to-morrow morning. Colonel Elliott will proceed during the night to the eastern shore of the River Rouge, and upon his communicating with the Major-General the troops will immediately commence crossing the river and land between River Rouge and Spring Wells.

Colonel Elliott will place the Indians in a position to take the enemy in flank and rear, should he be disposed to oppose the crossing.

Lieutenant-Colonel St. George will march his brigade this evening and canton the men in the houses close to the spot at which the embarkation is to take place.

The officers of the commissariat will make the necessary arrangements to supply the troops employed on the opposite shore with provisions and every article required by the different departments. During the operations of the troops in the field each man will receive one gill of spirits per day. The number for which provision is to be made may be calculated at two thousand.

By order of the Major-General.

J. B. Glegg, A. D. C.

The Secretary of War to Major-General Dearborn.

War Department, August 15, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Acknowledges the receipt of his letter of the 8th, informing him (the Secretary) of the conclusion of the armistice, and enclosing a despatch for Mr. Baker, the British *charge d'affaires*. He is instructed by the President that there does not appear to be any justifiable cause to vary from the arrangements that are in operation. Not a moment should be lost in gaining possession of Niagara and Kingston, and co-operating with General Hull in taking Upper Canada. It is expected that a sufficient force is assembled for this, especially at Niagara. The reinforcement for General Hull was to assemble at Newport, Ky., on the 12th, and should reach Detroit about the 1st September, and 500 men will march from Ohio and will probably arrive before. You are authorized to purchase and arm such vessels on Lake Champlain and other waters as may be necessary.

District General Orders.

Headquarters, Detroit,
16th Augt., 1812.

D. G. O.

Major-General Brock has every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the troops he had the honor to lead this morning against the enemy. The state of discipline which they so eminently displayed, and the determination they evinced to undertake the most

hazardous enterprise, decided the enemy, infinitely more numerous in men and artillery, to propose a capitulation, the terms of which are herewith inserted for the information of the troops.

The Major-General requests Colonel Procter will accept his best thanks for the assistance he derived from his experience and intelligence.

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 16th Aug., 1812.

Major-General Hall will please to order the troops in the vicinity of Niagara Falls to repair to Lewiston as soon as may be convenient, reserving a necessary guard at that place until it shall be relieved by a detachment from Lieut.-Col. Swift's regiment. The court martial, whereof Brigadier-General Wadsworth is president, will adjourn to headquarters, and there finish the business before them.

The troops between Lewiston and Fort Niagara will, with their baggage, march to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock to Lewiston, leaving guards at the places heretofore occupied for watching the movements of the enemy. The quartermaster will furnish the necessary transportation.

Lieut.-Col. Swift will furnish small guards of observation from Buffalo to the Falls of Niagara, inclusive. They are to communicate to the General-in-Chief by runners any movements of the enemy with all possible despatch.

By order of Major-General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

SUNDAY, August 16, 1812.
HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON.

. . . . . .

I had but just arrived yesterday when a firing of musketry commenced on both sides the river at this place.

My General says I was the first man on my horse, and that as I started he called to me three or four times to come back, and the reason he very handsomely assigned was that he expected I was going to run away, and that he should never see me again. However, Gen. Wadsworth and Col. VanRensselaer were on their horses and started with me. We run our horses up such horrid rocky precipices as I never saw men ride before. The firing increased, and the moment we darted out of the bushes on to the open land a

soldier, catching his breath, ran up to me and sung out: "General, do ride down into that hollow, for the balls fly dreadfully here." It was partly true; they did fly a little, but I did not observe only two that went near enough to make me grin. Col. V. R. says he heard 6 or 8 about near enough. We pursued on a little further and halted on our horses, inquiring of another soldier what began the skirmish. While he was relating his story there came a ball pretty near us, and had I been shot through I could not have helped laughing to see the poor devil run behind a large black oak tree, draw his arms close to his body, catch his breath and grin. You may depend on it there is something perfectly indescribable in the face of a clown who expects at every breath a ball through his back.

Gen. Wadsworth was extremely cautious to keep his breast towards the balls, saying he "had no notion that a Wadsworth should be shot through the back." However, after six or eight minutes the firing ceased on both sides; the guards were small, and I do not believe there were more than 100 muskets discharged on both sides, but those were four to one by the enemy. So we galloped all back again by another route amidst the plaudits of our clever fellows, and no one more gratified with the little prompt zeal shown than our commander. Now, *this exactly nothing* may by some fool be conjured up as to another *Sackett's Harbor battle.* In the afternoon over came a flag from Lieut.-Col. Myers of the 70th Regt., commanding Fort George, with a letter, demanding the reason why his guards had been fired on, and I have just had the honor of answering his letter to say that two men appeared near the American shore under suspicious circumstances; they hailed the opposite shore, and soon a boat appeared, presumed to be for the object of transporting the two men over, and she was therefore fired upon, and the fire returned. Col. VanRensselaer, decorated with all the pomp of war as the best sample we could give Canada, has just been over with the letter and returned. . . . . .

. . . . . .

9 AT NIGHT.—Huzza! Huzza and tantivy! We have been all day making out and despatching orders to Oswego for a rifle battalion, Cayuga for a troop of horse, to Ontario for Bloom's regiment, &c., and now since dark comes a memorandum from Captain Dox at Albany of the road full of troops, flying artillery, infantry, &c., and all the uniformed companies in the State!! An express from the Governor-General of Canada to Gen. Dearborn, proposing an armistice.

. . . . . .

MONDAY, Aug. 17th, 3 p. m.

Mr. Dickson, a gentleman of respectability from Queenston opposite this, is this moment over with a flag of truce. We asked him the news on the Canada shore. He says that all the reinforcements from Ohio to General Hull are cut off and destroyed by the Indians from Brownstown. Since writing the above Peter B. Porter tells me that from information he before possessed he has no doubt of the fact stated by Mr. Dickson.

. . . . . .

On the night of the the 17th, about midnight, I heard a whoop: "Officer of the guard! Officer of the guard!" Out I ran, for to tell the candid truth I have about done with sleep . . . . . Well, this was an express with letters from Gen. Dearborn, enclosing a sort of three-legged armistice between some sort of an Adjutant-General on behalf of the Governor-General of Canada and the said General Dearborn, also letters to Lt.-Col. Myers, commanding at Fort George. In the morning we sent down to Niagara, seven miles, sent a flag across with the letters, &c. There is nothing but flag after flag, letter after letter—Gen. Brock gone somewhere, Lt.-Col. Myers not at the fort now, and Major-Gen. Sheaffe, formerly of Boston, (brother of Nancy Sheaffe, tell my wife,) is now commanding at Fort George.

. . . . . .

The weather is unfavorable, alternate rains, and the sun excessively hot. We have to pay great attention to the health of the men. The duty of our troops is really severe—about 160 mount guard constantly, but no grumbling. The General is indefatigable with them; all the while among the men, and is growing every day more and more the favorite of the whole camp. Five minutes ago we returned through the lines. A man had fallen in a fit. The General looked and felt of him, called one of his mess to go directly with him to his marquee, and by him sent the poor soul a tumbler of wine. Encamping in the midst of the soldiers, and being every hour in their view, pleases all. All the boats which Porter has sent to Gen. Hull are undoubtedly cut off. I do not see how Hull can get out, but he may. I hope so. Freemen and brave soldiers are sacrifices too precious to be offered on the altar to atone for folly and rashness.

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 207-9.)

Col. Myers to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, UPPER CADADA,
August 17th, 1812.

SIR,—The despatches of Major-General Brock, acquainting Your Excellency of his having proceeded from here to Amherstburg on the 1st instant, leaving me in command of this district, will have no doubt reached you. Since his departure I have sent forward to him sixty rank and file of the 41st Regiment and a like number of militia volunteers. The former sailed from Fort Erie on the morning of the 4th instant, and I have had the satisfaction to hear of their timely arrival at their destination.

Major-General Brock left Long Point on the 8th with about 300 men, including forty rank and file of the 41st Regiment, which had for some time been stationed in that district. The winds were favorable, and he must have reached Amherstburg on the 12th. The greater part of this number proceeded in bateaux.

When the Major-General left this he authorized my opening all his official letters, and it may be satisfactory to Your Excellency to know that under the privilege I unsealed your confidential despatch (Aug. 3d,) addressed to him, and covering a copy of one from Your Excellency to General Dearborn. I instantly sent it forward to the Major-General, and will most strictly govern myself by its contents as long as I retain the command of this line, acquainting Major-General Sheaffe (who I learn is on his way here) thereof upon his arrival.

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency a letter from Colonel Procter (August 11th), received yesterday, enclosing a copy of an intercepted despatch from Brigadier-General Hull (August 4th), dated at Sandwich, addressed to the American Secretary at War, the contents appearing highly interesting, and lead to the certain hope of the overthrow of the enemy's force in that quarter.

Since the Major-General left this everything has remained quiet here, although I have heard from two creditable sources of information that the enemy have very lately completed forty boats, equal to the transport of thirty men each, at Tonewanta Creek, near the Grand Island, and that he intends in a few days to attack our flanks.

The armed vessels *Earl Moira* and *Prince Regent* are on our left, the schooner *Lady Prevost* on our right. Every possible preparation that our means will admit of is made for the reception of the enemy, and if he does attempt it I entertain no doubt of successfully opposing him.

Many of the militia have not yet returned from an indulgence

that was granted them to assist in the harvest. I believe the grain is principally got in by this time, and I have accordingly requested Major-General Shaw, the Adjutant-General of Militia, to call in all the absentees of the flank companies of the five Lincoln Regiments. Just now they amount to little more than 500 present. If they all come forth they will be about 800, and I have directed that a draft from these five regiments of 500 additional should be held in perfect readiness to join the flank companies at a moment's notice, and that the total remainder of that force should be in preparation to move to this line when called on.

I am concerned to have to add that desertion *to their houses* is rather prevalent among them. Everything on my part shall be done to urge them to activity, and I have great hopes that the good news from Amherstburg will very much stimulate them to exertion.

I find that the troops of the enemy opposite us are extremely discontented, and that numbers of them have gone back into the country.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 48.)

Major-General Brock to Major Thomas Evans.

DETROIT, 17th August, 1812.

DEAR EVANS,—Detroit is ours, and with it the whole Michigan Territory, the American army prisoners of war. The force you so skilfully prepared and forwarded at so much risk met me at Point au Pins in high spirits and most effective state. Your thought of clothing the militia in the 41st cast off clothing proved a most happy one, it having more than doubled our own regular force in the enemy's eye. I am not without anxiety about the Niagara, with your scanty means for its defence, notwithstanding my confidence in your vigilance and admirable address in keeping the enemy so long in ignorance of my absence and movements, &c.

(From Laura Secord and other Poems, by Mrs. S. A. Curzon: Appendix No. 3, pp. 209-10.)

General Timothy J. Hopkins to Governor Tompkins.

SIR,—Agreeable to the directions contained in the 7th section of an act to organize the militia of this State, passed March 29th, 1809, I transmit to Your Excellency information that I received from John McMahon, Lieut.-Colonel commandant of a regiment of militia organized in the County of Chautauqua during the last session of the Honorable Council of Appointment. The information which follows is nearly in Colonel McMahon's own words:

Since the declaration of war the inhabitants of the town of Chautauqua have been much alarmed with the appearance of two English vessels near their harbor, one of which was observed to be an armed vessel. This circumstance, together with the danger apprehended from the Indians in that quarter, particularly those who live on the Alleghany River, have created so much uneasiness among the inhabitants that many had determined to move off. To prevent this, Colonel McMahon thought it advisable to order out one captain and fifty men to guard the landing portage at Chautauqua for the space of two weeks. Colonel McMahon also informs me that he has, at his own expense, provided the company with provisions.

Buffalo, August 17th, 1812.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VIII., pp. 82-3, New York State Library.)

From the New York Statesman, 25th August, 1812.

From a correspondent at Lewiston, August 17th, 1812:

Canadians arrive daily. The Niagara River which in peaceable times can only be crossed with safety in boats, flats, &c., can now be passed with apparent safety on logs, rails, slabs, and even by many without any buoy whatever. Lakes Ontario and Erie, formerly considered extremely dangerous to cross with open boats, no longer present any obstacle to those who are so fortunate as to get possession of a boat—the perils of the sea are absorbed by the fear of being taken back by their friends. A boat of 16 or 18 feet in length lately brought over Lake Ontario (where its width is near 60 miles) three young men who report that at York there are very few soldiers, only two pieces of cannon, but considerable quantities of ammunition and other stores after furnishing the savages with large quantities lately, that the country was drained of soldiers and drafted militia, General Brock having ordered all that could be collected for Malden to fight General Hull. Indeed the latter part of this report is confirmed by all who come from any part of Canada. Further, that a Mr. Wilmot, Surveyor General of Upper Canada, who lived near York for many years, has collected a respectable company of men (about 60 in number) attached to the American cause, and proceeded on his march through the wilderness to join General Hull. Wilmot, they say, is much exasperated against the Government of Canada, and his followers not unlike their leader. Other reports of this nature there are in circulation, the truth of which cannot be ascertained.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 18th Aug., 1812.

Major-General Dearborn having communicated that, agreeably to an arrangement made between him and the Governor-General of Canada through his Adjutant-General, all hostilities between the troops on either side should be suspended until further orders, Major General VanRensselaer directs the officers and soldiers under his command strictly to conform to this arrangement, and if any of the troops have the hardihood to fire on the enemy they will be punished accordingly.

Lieut.-Col. Swift will order under arrest Capt. Dogherty of his regiment for absenting himself from his company, and will investigate the cause of firing of a field-piece at Black Rock on the opposite shore, and by whom, and report the facts to the Major General without delay.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, AMHERSTBURG,
18th Augt., 1812.

Militia General Orders.

The reports which have reached Major General Brock impeach in so serious a degree the character of many officers of the 1st and 2nd Essex and Kent Regiments of militia that His Honor has thought proper to appoint a Court of Enquiry in order to ascertain by a regular process such as have by any act or neglect of duty during the invasion of this district by the enemy forfeited their claim to the character of officers and gentlemen.

His Honor is perfectly satisfied that there are many of the officers of these Regiments to whom no share of blame can justly attach, and who have throughout evinced every degree of zeal for the service, and he is desirous of giving to such as may have been unjustly accused an opportunity by a public investigation of justifying their character from the imputations cast upon them.

Colonel James Baby, President.
" Matthew Elliott, } Members.
" William Caldwell, }

The court will assemble as soon after the arrival of Colonel

Baby as possibly, and will give to the different officers of these Regiments notice of the time and place of meeting.

By order of the Major General.

J. MACDONELL, Lt.-Col., P. A. D. C.

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON,
18th August, 1812, 6 o'clock a. m.

SIR,—Your letter of the 8th inst. by some mismanagement passed this place in the mail last evening on to Niagara, and was sent to me by express from Capt. Leonard at a late hour in the night. I have written General Hull, enclosing your letter to him. I have also written General Porter to forward the despatch to General Hull by some very trusty express. I have written the commanding officer at Fort George, enclosing the letters from Adjutant-General Baynes to him and sent my aid-de-camp, Col. VanRensselaer, to Niagara with orders to pass over with a flag and deliver the letters.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 25.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Lieut.-Col. Myers, 70th Regt.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 18th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date by your flag of truce.

When I this morning transmitted to you the two letters from the Adjutant-General of the British army, I authorized Colonel VanRensselaer, my aid-de-camp, to make with you the necessary arrangements agreed on at Albany.

In your absence from Fort George the letters were left without accomplishing the object. But I am now ready to send an officer to Fort Niagara, there to meet one whom you may appoint to make such arrangements for the government of the troops on the lines as may be proper. In the meantime it is explicitly understood that any movements of your troops in this vicinity to act offensively against Gen. Hull will be considered an infraction of the armistice agreed upon between Gen. Dearborn and the British Adjutant-General.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 26.)

Colonel Christopher Myers, 70th Regt., Deputy Quartermaster-General Commanding the Niagara District, to Major-General VanRensselaer.

CHIPPAWA, 18th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, transmitting one from the Adjutant-General of the British army, addressed to Major General Brock or officer commanding at Fort George, relative to refraining from all offensive warfare between the troops of His Majesty the King of Great Britain and the army of the United States of America until further orders; and, taking it for granted that similar directions have been received by you from Gen. Dearborn, I shall strictly conform to those which have just reached me upon the subject, and should you deem any further explanation upon the terms of the armistice requisite I will receive such officer as you may be pleased to send to Fort George for the purpose. My duty, however, will not allow of my being there before Thursday, but from which I trust no inconvenience will arise.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 26.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 18th August, 1812.

More clearing out. Last Sunday evening two native Americans living in Canada embarked in a crazy boat several miles above Fort Erie, and after tossing about all night in tempestuous Lake Erie, expecting, as they say, every moment to go to the bottom, they safely arrived at 4-Mile Point above this village. They state that it is currently reported in Canada that General Hull has taken Malden.

We also learn that Fort Erie is weak, the cannon being removed to the batteries below.

On Thursday last several soldiers at the Black Rock, being somewhat impatient for want of employment, manned a field-piece (6-pounder) and fired a shot at a small battery on the opposite side of the river. The ball struck a few feet from the battery, and made the men and boys scamper like the nation.

The fate of Clark, lately tried in this village as a British spy, is not officially known. It is, however, rumored that he is sentenced to die. Brink and Lee, it is understood, will be detained as prisoners of war.

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General VanRensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 19th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—Having arrived at this post to assume the command of His Majesty's troops stationed in the Niagara District, I have the honor to acquaint you that I shall be happy to receive, as speedily as possible, the officer suggested by Lieut.-Col. Myers to be sent over, if it meet with your concurrence, or, should you prefer it, Brigade-Major Evans, the bearer of this, will communicate my sentiments and arrange with you the mode of carrying into effect the order for a cessation of hostilities betwixt the forces of our respective countries stationed along the Niagara Frontier.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 27.)

General Stephen VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 19th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—After having visited Buffalo, Black Rock, and the camps at Niagara Falls and this place, and having by inspection and other means of information satisfied myself of the efficient force and the state of discipline among the troops, the munitions of war at command, the strength, number, and condition of the enemy I should probably have to engage, and all other circumstances connected with my intended operations, I was perfectly satisfied that although some very imperious considerations urged an immediate descent upon Canada, yet that such descent with my present disposable force would be rashness in the extreme. From Buffalo to Niagara my force of militia is less than one thousand, without any ordnance heavier than six-pounders, and few of them; without artillerists to use the few pieces I have, and the troops in a very indifferent state of discipline. Finding myself in this truly unpleasant situation, I saw but one course to pursue, which was to concentrate the troops scattered on the line, perfect their discipline as fast as possible, and order in such further detachments as might ensure success in my proposed operations. Accordingly, on the 15th inst. I isssued my orders to Lieut.-Colonel Fleming at Oswego to detach and march to this place Major Moseley's battalion of riflemen, on the 16th to Major Septimus Evans of Lieut.-Colonel George D. Wickham's regiment of detached cavalry for a troop of horse from his squadron, to Lieut.-Colonel Henry Bloom of the 19th Regiment of the 7th Brigade of detached militia to march his whole command. With this additional force and such other as I had reason to believe was on the march to this neighborhood and as might be called out on short notice from this and Ontario County, I calculated that the plan which I had adopted might be attempted unless the enemy

should be strongly reinforced. With the view of the intended operations, I had on the 15th inst. written to the Quartermaster-General to put immediately in readiness all the boats at his command. Such was the arrangement of the troops on this line, and such my orders issued when, on the night of the 17th, I received by express from Captain Leonard at Niagara a letter from Major-General Dearborn informing me of the agreement he had entered into with the Governor-General of Canada, through his Adjutant-General, for an armistice. By this arrangement communicated to me, which I presume has been done by Your Excellency's approbation and consent, I am instructed to confine the troops under my command to defensive measures only, until further orders, and I have issued my general orders accordingly.

The enclosures from the Adjutant-General of the British army in Canada which I received from General Dearborn I sent yesterday morning by my aide-de-camp, Colonel VanRensselaer, with a flag to Lieut.-Col. Myers, commanding at Fort George, at the same time authorizing Colonel VanRensselaer to enter with Colonel Myers into a definite arrangement for the government of the troops on both sides the line. Colonel Myers was absent, but in the afternoon of yesterday I received a flag acknowledging the receipt of the letters which had been transmitted, with his pledge to conform strictly to the terms of the armistice and his proposition that I should on Thursday next send an officer to Fort George to meet one whom he will appoint, for the purpose of settling definitely the temporary arrangement for the government of the troops, to which I have replied by flag that I am now ready to send an officer to meet such one as he may appoint for the above purpose, but to meet at Niagara, as I consider that place, under existing circumstances, the most proper. I have no reason to doubt but that this arrangement will in two or three days be made in good faith. Suffering all the orders which I have received to proceed and take effect, I shall hold my position until I receive Your Excellency's further orders. An express which has been sent to General Hull ought to have returned several days ago, but has not. I am concerned for his safety, and the more so as I learn that there are various reports with the enemy that there has been an action between their troops and General Hull's. The whole seems to render it at least probable that the troops to reinforce General Hull have been attacked. Some reports say that 300 of our wounded have been taken in boats in their attempt to reach Detroit. From all circumstances which have come to my knowledge, I think there is reason to believe that General Hull is very severely pressed.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VIII., pp. 79-82, New York State Library.)

Inspector-General Nicholas Gray to Governor Tompkins.

BLACK ROCK, 19th Aug., 1812.

DEAR SIR,—On the 22d of last month I had the honor of addressing a letter to you from Lewiston. Ever since I have been employed as engineer by Generals Hull and Wadsworth, and I have erected three batteries in this neighborhood: the one on the mountain near Lewiston; one at this place, and one opposite Fort Erie, which gives the advantage of situation, and though we have not as yet mounted a gun on it, it has given alarm there, as the enemy has moved his shipping off from before the fort, and the river and entrance of Lake Erie is now quite open. No ship nor boat can with safety lie before their fort once this battery is mounted. The distance is about three-quarters of a mile, and the ground so level on the Canadian side that we can send shot right into the fort. We want but a thirty-two-pounder here to pull down the scarlet jack of Fort Erie. The battery at Lewiston has a powerful command, is intended for two or three large guns, and keeps the inhabitants of Queenston in perfect subjection. Its elevation above the one-gun battery of the enemy is nearly forty-five feet and can sweep it off the surface of the field, distant from it about four hundred yards and from Queenston about six hundred, and elevated above the village about sixty-eight feet, has the command of Niagara River as far as the range of shot; the river lies straight before it up to our garrison. Major-General VanRensselaer, his aide and secretary, arrived here on Thursday morning last and went forward to Lewiston, where he has made his headquarters. There is a rumor of General Hall returning home in consequence of the arrival of Major General VanRensselaer.

I have been highly flattered by receiving the thanks of the Generals on the lines for the exertions I have made in making their situation secure. General VanRensselaer feels secure even under the guns of the enemy at Queenston, and Colonel Swift, who commands here, has no terror, as he has a battery or two of his own. The inhabitants of Buffalo wish for a one-gun battery to protect their town. Some of them have applied to me to erect one for them, but as yet I have received no orders from the commanding officer here. When I shall receive the orders I shall comply. We are all knocked on the head in consequence of this news of the armistice. It will give you, dear sir, great confidence and pleasure to see with what alacrity all were preparing to cross over to Canada when this news arrived. Shall I take the liberty to ask what it means and how soon shall we be authorized to take out the wooden snappers from our muskets? I judge from the weakness of the

enemy on the Canadian side that was a regiment to cross they would not be opposed, not a shot fired at them. There is but thirty-two red coats and the like number of militia stationed here. The latter were decreased to seven or eight all last week and the week before. We are much alarmed here about the situation of the brave General Hull, who, it is much feared, may be in want of provision for his enterprising army—'tis hard the only general who has as yet distinguished himself in this war should want provisions when we who are here idling on the lines should have all the loaves and fishes, neither will our commanding officer here give a direct order or consent that vessels laden with provisions be sent from here, but when applied to by the Quartermaster-General on behalf of his brother (who, poor man, has been dangerously ill since his return from Sandwich and still remains in a doubtful situation,) has quoted a part of General Dearborn's letter, which passage is unsatisfactory. However, the vessels are preparing and will be sent off to Sandwich, as surely this armistice, while it lasts, gives a right to navigate the lake to either army, provided they do not infringe our orders. General Porter has sent from here by the order of Major-General VanRensselaer a messenger by land to inform General Hull of this unpopular armistice, but it is feared by the Quartermaster-General that his journey may be retarded or interrupted at Sandusky, in which case he has a letter to the commanding officer at Malden making him an official messenger, and from Sandusky will take his course by water.

I should be glad to know whether this armistice includes the Indians, and would it not be good policy to annihilate these savages who have interrupted the intercourse from here to Detroit? We have frequent accounts of their barbarities. Had we a General Hull here when I arrived, the United States should have been in possession of Upper Canada, and we should have our quarters in Montreal instead of playing ball on the banks of the Niagara River. Between seventy and eighty fine young men passed through here yesterday to Lewiston to join the army. They are from Ontario county.

I wait in hopes of having the honor of a letter from you, and be assured that all my exertions shall be for the public good.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 73-6, New York State Library.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 19th Aug., 1812.

The Major General directs that the following regulations shall be observed by the troops under his command:

The reveille will be beat at daybreak, when every officer and soldier will appear on parade and the companies be exercised by their respective commanding officers for one hour; and the like time at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and by battalions on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week at the company and battalion parades. The field officers will attend and superintend the manœuvers of their corps. The troop will beat at 9 o'clock a. m., and the retreat at 6 o'clock p. m., when the line will be formed for roll call; the music will take their post on the right of regiments and not on the right of companies. On those occasions the dress of the officers and soldiers is to be clean, and their arms and accoutrements bright and in perfect order. The Major General flatters himself that the troops will vie with each other in the cleanliness of their dress, as well as their soldier-like and orderly conduct when on or off duty. The corps which shall distinguish itself for orderly conduct shall be reported by the Major General to the Commander-in-Chief, and every refractory officer or soldier shall be dealt with as the law and the usages of armies point out, for as they are called upon by their country to defend it, and paid for their services, it is expected "*every man will do his duty*," for on that the lives of the troops, the honor and success of the enterprises in which in all probability they will shortly be engaged, will depend.

The tatoo will be beat at 9 o'clock, when the men will retire to their tents and the sentinels begin to challenge.

Two captain's and two subaltern's guards will be mounted daily; one captain's guard will take post on the front and one in the rear of the camp, and the subaltern's on each flank. The guards will be sufficiently strong to form a chain of sentinels round the camp, and they will be augmented or diminished as occasion may require. The guards will assemble on the grand parade at half-past 9 o'clock, when they will be formed by the major of brigade and marched off precisely at 10 o'clock. A portion of the music of the line will attend and do duty until the guards are marched off to their respective pickets. The adjutants will march the men detached from the respective regiments for this service to the grand parade, and will be responsible for the soldier-like appearance of the men, arms, and accoutrements. Each man of the guard will be furnished with twenty-four rounds of fixed cartridges; their pieces will be loaded after sunset, and when the guards are relieved they will

return to the grand parade, from whence they will be marched in a body by the officer of the day to some convenient spot, where their pieces will be discharged at a target of the size of a dollar, at one hundred yards distance. And on all other occasions firing is strictly prohibited, unless it be by the sentinels at night to give the alarm.

The officer of the day will be taken from the regimental field officers, whose duty it shall be to visit the guards and sentinels three times in the course of the day and three times at night, to regulate the guards, to see that they are vigilant and in soldier-like order, for on their alertness the lives of the men and the safety of the army depend.

The officers are strictly enjoined to attend to the cleanliness of their men; they must frequently visit their tents and examine the situation of them. On the faithful performance of this duty depend the lives and health of the troops.

The commanding officers of regiments and corps will cause two vaults or sinks to be dug in the rear of each company, at least one hundred yards in the rear of the rear tents, in a line parallel to the tents, and if any soldier shall be found to leave excrement in any other place within the line of sentinels he shall be punished.

The grounds in front and rear of the tents is to be levelled and cleaned by the respective companies. The Brigade-Major will direct the Adjutants to cause the music, when not on the march, to practise the different calls and marches.

The Courtmartial, whereof Brigadier-General Wadsworth was appointed President, will meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before them. General Wadsworth will please to make the necessary arrangements and meet in such place as he may think convenient.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

From Major General Sheaffe to Major General VanRensselaer.

QUEENSTON, 20th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—Brigade-Major Evans is directed to repair again to your headquarters charged with propositions connected with the armistice, which I hope will prove perfectly satisfactory to you.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 27.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Sheaffe.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 20th August, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, covering the articles which you propose for carrying the armistice into effect. I have to regret the articles proposed are so variant from the orders which I have received that I cannot accede to them.

In the letter which I had the honor to transmit to Lieut.-Col. Myers on the 18th instant it was explicitly stated that any movements of the troops in this vicinity, with a view to act offensively against General Hull, would be considered an infraction of the armistice. If an article fully embracing the above is considered inadmissible, any further attempts for an adjustment will be unavailing.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 29.)

The Secretary of War to Major General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, August 20th, 1812.

(Abstract.)

The detachment of militia from Kentucky to reinforce General Hull has been increased by the Governor to 1,600, besides 400 regulars. A company of militia ordered out by the Governor of Ohio to secure the road is reported to have halted at the Miami in consequence of Indians in front. There should be early and effective co-operation at Niagara.

Articles of Agreement for an Armistice.

We, the undersigned, in conformity with the instructions of our respective commanders, hereby agree to a cessation of all acts of hostility between the troops and vessels of all descriptions under our command until we shall receive further orders, and the party who shall first receive orders for the renewal of hostilities shall give four days' notice, computing twenty-four hours to each day, before any offensive operation shall take place.

And we further agree that no reinforcements of men or supplies of ammunition shall be sent by either party higher up than Fort Erie, and it is also to be understood that no reinforcements of men and no supplies of ammunition, which now are or hereafter may arrive in our respective districts, shall be forwarded above that post, and further that no troops are to be sent up from any station

in either of our districts above Fort Erie without four days previous notice to be given by the party intending to make such movement. Subject, however, to the above restriction, either party shall be at liberty to make such changes and movements of troops, vessels and boats as he may deem proper.

Agreed to this twenty-first day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

S. VanRensselaer,
Major General Commanding Frontier.

R. H. Sheaffe,
Major General Commanding Fort George
and Dependencies, &c., &c.

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

Headquarters, Lewiston, August 21st, 1812.

Sir,—Enclosed I transmit you a copy of the agreement this day entered into between Major-General Sheaffe, commanding Fort George and dependencies, &c., &c., and myself for the government of the forces on each side the line. You will readily perceive that terms more favorable than those expected in your letter have been obtained. The agreement speaks for itself.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 31.)

Note.—In the copy of the agreement transmitted, the last lines from either to proper are italicised.—Ed.

Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

Headquarters, Greenbush, August 21, 1812.

Sir,—Your letter of the 12th inst. has been duly received. As it is believed that a detachment has been made from Niagara to reinforce the garrison at Malden, it will be necessary to be as well prepared as possible to take advantage of the reduced forces in your front as soon as there shall be orders to act offensively. Considerable reinforcements from the detached militia and volunteers are ordered to Niagara, Sackett's Harbor, Ogdensburg and Plattsburg. With the detachment of regular troops under Lieut.-Col. Fenwick there is some heavy ordnance, ammunition and intrenching tools, which will be immediately, with additional ordnance and military stores, sent to Niagara, Sackett's Harbor and Ogdensburg. I have also ordered a considerable number of batteaux from Schenectady to Niagara and Sackett's Harbor, and the construction of suitable

scows at the respective places, including Ogdensburg, for the transportation of ordnance. I hope that Col. Porter will proceed in the construction of boats and scows with all possible despatch. It will be highly gratifying to me to receive intelligence from you by every mail, and in case of emergency by express.

From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 34.

Colonel Solomon VanRensselaer to his Wife.

LEWISTON, NIAGARA, Aug. 21, 1812.

MY DEAR HARRIET,—

. . . . . .

Major Forman and Jacob TenEyck reached this to-day; the latter informed me he had seen you about a fortnight since and that you were all well. It is unnecessary for me to say how happy it made me. I had only one moment to speak to him, but I shall see him when I have finished this, which goes by mail this evening. When they reached camp I was mounted on my horse to go over to the British side to conclude an armistice, in which I have been engaged for three days in conformity to an arrangement made at Albany between Gen. Dearborn and the British Adjutant-General. I have succeeded, to the astonishment and admiration of all, and until we hear from below we are at peace with our neighbors. In my intercourse with the British officers on the subject of the armistice and from other sources, we have been informed, and I have no doubt of the correctness of the information, of an action fought between Gen. Hull and the British at Detroit, in which our troops suffered severely. From all we can learn he has either been taken or compelled to re-cross the river; but in my negotiations with Major Gen. Sheaffe, Colonel Myers and Major Evans, I kept up such a *bold front* that, although General Dearborn's instructions were confined to their not sending reinforcements to act against Hull, I succeeded in getting the use of the waters of the rivers and lakes. This to the army and merchants is of incalculable value for future operations, and this was effected by a proper disposition of our small forces and holding out to them moderate but strong language. The troops before we came here were scattered along the frontiers; we have concentrated them, and are now getting in fine order. They did nothing before; they are pleased in the change, but in making that change I assure you I have my hands full. We have now eleven hundred only above Oswego, instead of Tompkins's *five thousand*, but 1,500 more are on the march.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 211-2.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, August 22d, 1812.

It is painful to the Major General to find that some part of the troops are so regardless of their duty as to disobey the orders issued for preventing scattering firing in and about the camp. This dangerous and disgraceful practice is once more and for the last time prohibited. If any man of the line (the guards and sentinels excepted) shall after this discharge his firearms without orders he will be instantly confined; and the field and company officers are strictly enjoined to enforce this order.

The Major General regrets that he is compelled to remind the officers of his command of the necessity of being in camp at night, for if *they* will be regardless of their duty, what can be expected of their *men* by such an example? They are in future directed to be at night in their tents, unless otherwise ordered, and in perfect readiness at any moment to commence or repel an attack, to which troops in the face of an enemy are at all times liable.

The officers and troops meet with the perfect approbation of the Major General for their alertness in parading at reveille, with the exception of one or two companies, which were not this morning on parade, and the captain of one company not in camp. But let him beware for the future; if caution and remonstrance will avail nothing, more decisive measures shall.

To-morrow being the Sabbath, the guards will not discharge their pieces until Monday after roll-call, and this regulation will be observed until further orders.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Colonel Lethbridge.

FORT GEORGE, August 22d, 1812.

SIR,—I am directed by Major General Sheaffe to acquaint you that in expectation of your having received orders from Quebec to forward to this post a portion of the reinforcements which it is hoped have arrived at Kingston, and in consequence of my private letter to you of the 15th instant, expressive of the anxiety of Major General Brock upon that point, he has been on the lookout for some of the vessels from Kingston appearing here with the troops, particularly as the wind has been favorable for two days.

The circumstance of the fall of Detroit and the hourly expected arrival here of a number of prisoners to be sent downward, added

to the want of troops on this line in the event of a renewal of hostilities, induces Major General Sheaffe to direct me to desire that if the three companies of the 49th Regt. and the detachment of the Newfoundland Regt. have arrived at Kingston, you cause the whole of the former to be immediately embarked on board the *Royal George* and *Duke of Gloucester* and despatched without delay to this post, provided you have not received orders to the contrary from His Excellency the Commander of the Forces or Major Genl. Brock.

Camp equipage for 300 men is to accompany the troops to this station, and upon this subject I have forwarded orders to the Deputy Asst. Qr. Mast'r-Genl. at Kingston.

(Canadian Archives : C. 677, p. 53.)

Major General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 22nd August, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of reporting to Your Excellency that on my arrival at this post on the 10th instant, I found that a letter had arrived from Colonel Baynes, addressed to the officer commanding here, to apprise him that an armistice had been agreed on, and that a correspondence on the subject had been opened between Lieut.-Colonel Myers and M. General VanRensselaer. After my arrival several conferences were held between officers appointed for the purpose; a difficulty as to the terms having arisen, founded on a variation between those stated in Colonel Baynes's letter and instructions which General VanRensselaer had received from General Dearborn, and which required a stipulation on our part that no reinforcements, &c., should be sent up to the troops opposed to B. General Hull. This obstacle was removed in an unexpected manner. I went up to Queenston on the 20th inst. accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Myers and Brigade-Major Evans, and I sent the latter over to Lewiston with my propositions. On his return he informed me that objections were made to some of them, and that Colonel VanRensselaer, A. D. C. to the General, would come over to me to enter into an explanatory discussion. Before his arrival the express came to me with the intelligence of M. General Brock's important success. It was not communicated to him, but some time was employed in discussion before I acceded to the obligation not to send up reinforcements without four days previous notice, thinking it prudent to avoid exciting suspicion by too ready an assent. I have the honor of transmitting the articles agreed on, and it is moreover understood that boats are not to be assembled at

any point on either side under cover of the privilege granted therein. I also enclose herewith a copy of a letter which Lieut.-Colonel Myers has written by my direction to Colonel Lethbridge.

Since Lieut.-Colonel Myers's letter of the 17th instant considerable reinforcements are said to have joined the enemy at Black Rock, and a camp capable of holding at least eight hundred men has been formed at Lewiston. On the 18th there were seventy tents in which it was reported there were six hundred men, but Lieut.-Colonel Myers having caused a few blank cartridges to be fired in quick succession to create an alarm and make them turn out, it had the desired effect, and he did not discover more than two hundred men. Since that period, however, the number of tents has been increased to more than a hundred.

The wind has been unfavorable to M. General Brock for several days, or he would probably have arrived here by this time.

Canadian Archives: C. 677, p. 55.)

Lieut.-Colonel Philetus Swift to Governor Tompkins.

SIR,—I take the liberty to communicate to you my situation, and the situation of my regiment. I have about four hundred and seventy men, four hundred of whom are good and in high spirits; men that I am willing to risk my life for and with, and believe they are with me, but that is not enough for a regiment. Your knowledge of me will lead you to suppose that it would be pleasing to me to have an opportunity to do my country service, and if I may be allowed to enlist under the Act of the sixth of February last two or three hundred men more as good as I now have, I should feel as if we could tell well in the place of danger. My regiment is all under the Act of Congress except Captain Jennings' company, which I should be glad to get rid of. I have put him under arrest for detaining pay from his men, which would have volunteered had he not advised them otherwise. Captain Joseph Wells, who commands a light infantry company in Buffalo, has been in service since the militia was called out in June by order of General Wadsworth. He has now 26 good men enlisted under the Act of Congress, and I believe could fill his company immediately had he orders from Your Excellency to that effect. He is now under my command and wishes to remain so; on those conditions the men have enlisted, that they belong to my regiment. Captain Mahar mentioned to me this evening that his company of riflemen was called out, and that if they was sent into the lines in this part it was his wish to join my regiment, which would be very agreeable to me and to my regiment.

I have good officers. One company, now commanded by Captain McNair, by Captain Rowley when first ordered into service, who General Wadsworth discharged, has no other officer in the company. Captain Matteson's company has no lieutenant in it.

My men are sickly at present, but I hope on the mending hand. There is 21 sick that are confined to bed, 12 more that are in the hospital, the greater part on the recovery. They have good stores and good attendance. The money sent on for clothing did my men but very little good except Captain Elias Hall, who has bought clothing for his men, and Captain Mahar. It was out of my power to get the others to do the like, and if they remain in service I fear they will be destitute of clothing except they have some sent on. We have been full of trouble and hard duty, without danger to keep us alive. A few days since we had our expectations raised in hopes of a chance to cross the river and by that relieve General Hull or stop the troops that were marching against him, but the orders from General Dearborn blasted all our hopes of that.

My regiment is stationed at Black Rock. We have twenty-two miles of the lines to guard, which makes our duty very hard, while the standing troops (490) and two regiments of six months' men guarded seven miles only; but we do not complain. Permit me to request an answer from Your Excellency as far as respects Captain Wells's company, whether they can be accepted or not.

Black Rock, August 23rd, 1812.

P. S.—Major Frederick Miller entered service the 21st of June by General Porter's and my request, and has been a faithful officer and done great service to our troops. Ensign Chasey of my regiment is worthy the lieutenantcy in that company, which is vacant. If he could have an appointment, I think it would be well.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII, pp. 87-91, New York State Library.)

Major General Brock to Colonel Procter.

FORT GEORGE, August 25th, 1812.

SIR,—I wrote to you yesterday informing you that a cessation of hostilities had been agreed upon between Sir George Prevost and General Dearborn, and requesting you in consequence to postpone any attempt upon Fort Wayne or any other post of the enemy. I consider the present forbearance may lead to such consequences that I cannot refrain from sending a second express to urge you to restrain the Indians likewise in their predatory excursions. This, however, ought to be done with the greatest caution and on grounds foreign from the present considerations.

Colonel Myers tells me that he forwarded on the 11th instant a despatch received from Sir George Prevost to me, in which His Excellency so clearly stated the principles of moderation upon which he thought it expedient to act, that I fully expect, should you have received the despatch and perused his sentiments, you will forbear from any hostile aggression, in fact act completely on the defensive.

Should everything remain quiet at Detroit, you will proceed hither, bringing to Fort Erie the detachments which Captain Chambers and Lieutenant Bullock took to Amherstburg. All the spare ordnance is to be transported to Fort Erie.

I should also think that Lieutenant Troughton and a few of his men could be spared for some time from the duties at Amherstburg: in that case you will have the goodness to order them to accompany you.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, p. 300.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Sheaffe.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 25th August, 1812.

SIR,—I have learned with regret that last night a subaltern officer with a few soldiers and citizens, contrary to my orders, passed over from the American shore and on Buckhorn Island surprised and brought off a sergeant and five men with a boat. Early this morning I ordered the sergeant and men released and the boat restored to them.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 31.)

Major General Brock to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
25th August, 1812.

SIR,—Major General Sheaffe having communicated to me your letter of this date, addressed to him, I seize upon the first moment to express my thanks for the measures you have adopted to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding which might have arisen in consequence of the unauthorized act of one of your subaltern officers.

It was not until my arrival at Fort Erie late in the evening of the 23d instant that I learnt that a cessation of hostilities had been agreed upon between General Dearborn and Sir George Prevost, and I in consequence despatched early yesterday morning an express to Amherstburg, ordering a cessation of all offensive opera-

tions against the United States, and likewise to exert every influence in restraining the Indians from committing any acts of hostility.

The fortune of war having put me in possession of Detroit and its dependencies, a small garrison has been ordered to occupy the fort, the chief object of which was to afford protection to the inhabitants of the Territory. I have the honor to enclose a copy of a proclamation which I issued upon this occasion.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 31.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 25th, 1812.

The troops stationed at Black Rock yet remain sickly. Those at Lewiston we understand are in excellent health. From the other stations on the lines we have no particular information.

Several works of defence have been thrown up at different points on our lines within the last two weeks. One hundred and fifty tents have been lately pitched at Lewiston.

Deserters from the British service and disaffected inhabitants of Canada are almost daily appearing on our lines. They are generally willing to be examined, and with but a few exceptions give satisfactory accounts of themselves.

Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Aug. 25, 1812.

SIR,—As soon as practicable after the receipt of this, you will please to have the enclosed letter, directed to the commanding officer of the British forces at Fort George, at Niagara, conveyed to him by a flag, and the letter to General Hull you will please to have forwarded to him by express with as great despatch as practicable, and at the expiration of four days after the letter is delivered to the British commanding officer at Fort George you will consider the temporary conditional agreement for suspending operations between the forces under your command and the British forces in your vicinity as no longer binding, *and you will act accordingly, and you will make every exertion in your power for annoying the enemy, as well as to guard against any attack from him. Considerable reinforcements have been sent on from Montreal to strengthen their positions in Upper Canada; and I trust you will very soon receive such additional force from this State and from Pennsylvania as will enable you to pass into Canada with safety and effect.* A large reinforcement is on its march under Brig.-Gen. Dodge for Sackett's Harbor and Ogdensburg, as well as for Platts-

burg. I have ordered thirty batteaux to Niagara and an equal number to Sackett's Harbor, and have directed the building of proper scows for the transportation of ordnance. *If the enemy should have detached from Fort George, it may afford you an opportunity to strike a blow.*

P. S.—Sir, it will be advisable to wait until the arrival of Lt.-Col. Fenwick with the cannon and stores shall be rendered certain within four days before you send the enclosed letter to Fort George. I presume he must arrive before this reaches you, but it may be otherwise.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 36.)

General Orders.

HARRISBURG, August 25, 1812.

The President of the United States having, through the Secretary at War and General Dearborn, under date, respectively, of the 13th inst., required a detachment of 2,000 militia to be marched with the least possible delay from the northwestern parts of Pennsylvania to Buffalo, in the State of New York, duty and feeling direct a prompt compliance with the requisition, giving scope for action to the patriotism evinced by that portion of our citizen soldiers who have volunteered their services under general orders of 12th May last in substitution of the draft required of the State. To obey this call in defence of rights sacred to freemen, to avenge the injuries of the nation and defend the cause of suffering humanity the volunteers of Pennsylvania will not hesitate a moment to meet the avowed enemy of those rights, not only within the limits of the United States, but will without those limits, with ardor seek and with the determination of freemen punish the unprovoked invaders of our rights and property. . . . . .

. . . . . .

For obvious reasons the Adjutant-General has been ordered to designate for service such of the volunteers as can with the least possible delay be marched to the scene of action, and is charged with the organization of the detachment of 2,000 men, conformably to the following plan :—The detachment to constitute a brigade, to consist of four regiments, and each regiment to consist of two battalions, to be arranged by the Adjutant-General at the place of rendezvous.

The general rendezvous will be at Meadville, to which place the volunteers composing the detachment will march with the requisite expedition, so that they will be there on the 25th day of September next. By the twenty-sixth section of the general militia

law, among other services by them to be performed, it is made the duty of the brigade inspectors to march each with his proper detachment to the place of rendezvous.

These officers are severally required and directed to provide subsistence and other necessary accommodation for the troops on their march, and detailed accounts for settlement and payment to the accountant officers of the commonwealth.

Apprised of the generally prevailing desire that those appointed to command may be the choice of the commanded, the Governor, agreeably to the tenth section of a supplement to the militia law, passed 26th March, 1808, and the twenty-seventh section of the general militia law, authorizes and directs the officers and privates of the detachment on the day succeeding the 25th day of September next, or those who shall have arrived, to elect, agreeably to the rules prescribed by the militia law, one brigadier-general; each regiment to elect a colonel commandant; each battalion, one major; the brigadier-general to appoint his own brigade major; the field officers of each regiment shall appoint their respective regimental staffs. To expedite the expedition in discharge of his duty, the Adjutant-General will attend and deliver to the officers-elect their commissions.

SIMON SNYDER,
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania.

(From Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., pp. 585-8.)

N. B. Boileau to Calender Irvine.

HARRISBURG, August 25, 1812.

To Calender Irvine, Superintendent Military Stores:

SIR,—Your letter of the 17th instant has been received by the Governor, who has issued general orders for 2,409 volunteer militia to rendezvous at Meadville on the 25th day of September next. You will therefore please to interest the proper officers to forward to that place a sufficient number of tents, kettles and other camp equipage necessary for the detachment above mentioned, so as to be ready at the time appointed for assembling the troops at Meadville. There will be in the detachment 1 brigadier, 4 colonels, 8 majors, 46 captains.

P. S.—General Reed will be at Meadville to receipt for the articles delivered. To ensure the number of 2,000, the Governor has ordered out the number of 2,409. It might be prudent to supply for the greater number.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., pp. 589-90.)

Governor Snyder to the Brigade Inspectors.

SIR,—You will immediately on the receipt of the General Orders communicate them to the captains or commanding officers of the volunteer companies within the bounds of your brigade, and give every aid in your power to have the companies marched as expeditiously as possible to the place of rendezvous (Meadville) mentioned in General Orders. The troops will be supplied with rations, tents and other camp equipage by the United States. Should there be any deficiency of arms in any of the volunteer companies, you will supply them out of any that may be in the bounds of your brigade. If there cannot be a sufficient number found in that way they will be furnished at the place of rendezvous. Every man will take care to supply himself with a blanket and a knapsack. It is confidently expected that the patriotism of the volunteers is too sincere and ardent to permit them to make any objections to crossing the boundary line of the United States; otherwise they will render no service to their country.

By order of the Governor.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., p. 591.)

A Return of the Detached Volunteer Corps.

A return of the detached volunteer corps who have been called on to march agreeably to the within General Orders of 25th August, 1812:—

Division.	*Brigade Captain.*	*No. Men.*	*Total.*
7th Division:	2d Brigade—James McDowel	73	
	Jeremiah Snyder	51	
	Michael Harper	32	
	Andrew Oaks	60	
		—	215
9th Division:	1st Brigade—John Donaldson	93	
	John Amand	30	
	Ner Middleswarth	79	
	Jared Irwin	68	
		—	270
	2d Brigade—John Gaston	79	
	Joseph Dean	42	
	Isaac Blue	42	
	George Eley	67	
		—	230

11th Division:	1st Brigade—Joseph Kleckner	42	
	John McGarry	59	
		—	101
	2d Brigade—Jacob Vanderfelt	33	
	Moses Canan	33	
		—	66
12th Division:	1st Brigade—Jasper Keller	49	
	Peter Lane	42	
	Jonathan Roads	47	
	Richard Maguire	30	
		—	168
	2d Brigade—William Piper	68	
	Hugh Gibson	71	
		—	139
14th Division:	1st Brigade—William Sample	62	
	Thomas Miller	67	
	Edward Thomas	52	
	James Warner	42	
	David Buchanan	63	
		—	286
	2d Brigade—Henry Vance	42	
	William Peterson	52	
		—	94
15th Division:	1st Brigade—James Turbit	45	
	David 'Alters	58	
	James Scott	45	
	Walter Lithgow	53	
	Volunteers	59	
	John Barrackman	78	
		—	338
	2d Brigade—James Alexander	53	
	John Lochry	66	
		—	119
16th Division:	1st Brigade—Thomas Foster	31	
	Samuel Withrow	28	
		—	59
	2d Brigade—Robert Dougherty	47	
	John Stewart	43	
	Robert Sto	67	
	Abraham Brickle	44	
	James Thompson	50	
		—	251

N. B.—John Fint, brigade inspector, Ninth Division and Second

Brigade, has been subsequent to General Orders directed to order a company, commanded by Capt. Robert McGuigan, to march. Number of men in the company unknown.

WILLIAM REED, Adjutant-General.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., pp. 592-3.)

Governor Snyder to General W. Reed.
General Orders.

HARRISBURG, August 26, 1812.

To William Reed, Esq., Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania:

SIR,—You are ordered to attend at Meadville, the new rendezvous for 2,000 volunteers of this State, ordered into service on the northwestern frontier of this commonwealth under a requisition of the proper authority. You will accordingly, with the least possible delay, repair to the said rendezvous and take command of the detachment. The citizen soldiers whereof, officers and privates, as they shall from day to day arrive, are commanded strictly to obey and execute all that you shall lawfully order and direct until a brigadier-general and other officers for said detachment shall have been elected and commissioned, agreeably to the general orders of yesterday. The said brigadier-general having taken the command, is ordered and commanded with the least possible delay to march the brigade under his command to Niagara, and on his arrival immediately report himself to the commanding general of the troops at that place.

SIMON SNYDER,
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania.

N. B. BOILEAU, Aid-de-Camp.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., p. 594.)

Governor Snyder to Major General Dearborn.

HARRISBURG, 26th August, 1812.

To General Henry Dearborn, commanding the army of the United States, Greenbush, near Albany, in the State of New York:—

SIR,—Your request under authority of the President, of the 13th instant, which I received by express from this place at Selin's Grove on the 21st, that I would order out 2,000 of the northwestern militia of Pennsylvania, is complied with, as you will perceive by a copy of the General Orders under date of yesterday, which I have

the honor to enclose, I take the liberty also to enclose a copy of a letter to me on the same subject from the Secretary at War, because of the variance between the two requisitions. You make the request under the Act of February 28th, 1795, under which the militia cannot be longer retained in service than three months. The Act of the 10th April, 1812, authorizes the retention of militia in service six months. The Secretary at War directs that the detachment shall consist of the propositions recognized in the order of April 15. Your letter says: "There will be no use for cavalry nor any artillery, unless supplied with field-pieces and apparatus complete." On this subject I have by letter of this day said to the Secretary at War that under the belief that the object of both was to have detached for the service the most efficient force, the General Orders are for volunteer infantry and riflemen. They are of the militia of Pennsylvania the best equipped and best disciplined, and in my opinion the most efficient for the service. The number of riflemen is 1,380, of infantry 962, giving a surplus equal to any probable deficiency.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., p. 595.)

Governor Snyder to William Eustis, Secretary at War.

HARRISBURG, August 26, 1812.

To Hon. William Eustis, Secretary at War, at the City of Washington:

SIR,—Yours under date of the 13th inst. reached me at Selin's Grove, the place of my residence, on the 21st, by express from Harrisburg. On Sunday evening, the 23d, I arrived at this place, and yesterday General Orders were issued, directing 2,000 volunteer militia to march and rendezvous at Meadville, in the northwestern part of this State, a copy of which order I have the honor herewith to enclose. I also enclose a copy of a letter to me from General Dearborn of the same date and on the same subject. I do this because of the variation between your letter and the General's, the former requiring a detachment of militia under the Act of April 10, 1812, in the proportion recognized in the order of April 15th, under which Act the militia may be retained in service six months; the latter makes the requisition under the Act of Congress of March 28, 1795. Under this last Act the militia cannot be longer retained in service than three months. The General further says there would be no use for cavalry nor artillery unless supplied with field-pieces and apparatus complete. Under the belief the object of both was

to have detached for the service the most efficient force, the General Orders are for volunteer infantry and riflemen. They are of the militia of Pennsylvania the best equipped, the best disciplined, and in my opinion the most efficient for the service. The number of riflemen is 1,380, of infantry 962, giving a surplus equal to any probable deficiency. The only artillery in a situation to be efficient is at Philadelphia, a point too remote from the scene of action. If, however, the President should deem it necessary to order out a portion of artillery, upon intimation to me it will be promptly attended to.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., pp. 596-7.)

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
26th August, 1812.

Militia General Orders.

Major General Brock has ever felt anxious to study the comforts and convenience of the militia, but the conduct of the detachments which lately accompanied him to Detroit has, if possible, increased his anxiety on this subject. The present cessation of hostilities enables him to dispense with the services of a large proportion of them for a short period.

Officers commanding will grant permission to any number of the flank companies now doing duty, not exceeding four-fifths of the whole, to return to their homes, but the men will be particularly directed to hold themselves in readiness to return at a moment's notice.

The Major General is pleased to direct that a general inspection of the regiments in the Home, Niagara and London Districts be immediately made.

Major General Sheaffe will inspect those in the Home District (except Colonel Beasly's regiment,) Major General Shaw the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Lincoln regiments, and Colonel Talbot the different regiments in the London District.

At these inspections every man liable to serve is expected to be present, and such as are absent are to be accounted for under the following heads:—

First—Age and infirmity.

Second—Quakers, Mennonists and Tunkers.

Third—Absentees, distinguishing from what cause.

It is expected that every individual residing within the limits of a regiment shall be accounted for.

A regular roll of each company will be prepared by the respective captains, and countersigned by the officer commanding the regiment.

The greater the improvement made by the militia in acquiring a knowledge of military discipline, the less necessary will it be to call them from their homes. The Major General therefore is pleased to direct that officers commanding will call out the men of their respective regiments or companies for drill once in every week.

Officers commanding corps are directed to call upon the militiamen of their respective regiments, battalions and companies to take and subscribe the oath of allegiance, as directed in the last Militia Act, previous to the day of inspection, and they will furnish the inspecting officer with a list of the names of such persons as may have refused to take and subscribe the same, if any such there be.

By order of the Major General.

J. MACDONELL,
Lt.-Col., P. A. D. C.

From the National Intelligencer, of Washington, D. C., Sept. 3rd, 1812.

Extract of a letter from Colonel S. VanRensselaer, dated August 26th, 6 p. m.:

"I am this moment called upon to receive a flag of truce from the British, accompanied by an officer from General Hull's army, which surrendered on the 16th inst. to the British General Brock."

A Niagara paper (the *Bee*) of the 22nd inst. states that General Hull had 2,500 men and 25 pieces of cannon, which, together with the American vessels on the lake and Detroit, surrendered to General Brock on the 16th inst. without bloodshed on the part of the British.

General Hull is now on board the *Queen Charlotte*.

(From file in the New York Society Library.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, August 26, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Yesterday I wrote you, Mr. Van Vechten, and Colonel Westerlo, but what I wrote I cannot say; it was a day of turmoil, mortification and humiliation through our camp. Such a flood as the consequences of Gen. Hull's surrender poured in upon us that it required considerable nerve to meet everything, and unluckily Col. VanRensselaer had gone to Buffalo to make some arrangements

with Swift's Regiment, which is getting down fast with sickness, and might say too great a want of discipline. Yesterday the first we saw was a guard of about 50 men passing with some wagons on the opposite shore; it was the victorious Brock returning to Fort George. He sent over Col. McDonald, his aid-de-camp, and Major Evans, two strapping lads in scarlet, gold and arms, to make a communication to General VanRensselaer. I went to meet them at an inn near the shore to learn their pleasure, but finding it was *general* and *verbal*, it could not be received. They were, however, very modest, very respectful, and altho' I constantly barred any communication, they still kept bowing and saying that "Gen. Brock only wished to acquaint Gen. VanRensselaer" of this and that and that, &c., &c. In this way they convinced me that Brock had not learned anything of the armistice until he arrived in this neighborhood, that but a very small force was left behind, that Brock, learning the armistice, felt a very friendly disposition, &c. I made my best bow and scraped as fast as I could, but a poor *private secretary alone* against *two* such *scarlet clad champions* had, as you may suppose, an indifferent chance. We parted, but I think Gen. VanRensselaer will shortly receive some written communication from Gen. Brock. In the evening a number of Hull's officers on parole visited Gen. V. R. They were very cautious of their words, but I could discern a degree of disaffection towards Hull. Gen. Hull will probably be sent to Quebec. The militia captured, I understand, are sent home, that's all. Indeed I have not either time or patience to examine into this most nameless affair. I feel what you may suppose. I need say no more.

I was ever proud of my country, and as an American could look any man of any nation at least *horizontally* in the face. But yesterday my eyes seemed to have acquired a new attachment to the ground. I sent Van Vechten a paper giving the detail of the surrender, sent by an express to overtake the mail, hope he got it. And now, my friend, what do you think of *our* situation? It is true we are all tied up with the armistice, but either party may throw it off by four days notice. I don't *believe* the enemy will throw it off. Nevertheless, we have to cast about a little. This part of the country now think their whole salvation rests upon our little raw army. *I think*, I know the fact that after Brock had taken Hull, he expressed his determination to return and take Niagara. I think his mind is altered by the armistice, but he *can* take Niagara any hour he pleases. Yes, my friend, we can't defend Niagara *one hour*. And as for our present camp, I now write with one eye on a single gun on yon hill in Queenston, which would rout us all in three minutes, and we have only two *grasshoppers* to

return the fire. The Ohio officers, prisoners, also were last evening with us, say that the Indians with Brock are the finest fellows they ever saw; a size larger than they ever saw. They are commanded by the Prophet's brother Tecumsieh. He is hourly expected at Fort George about seven miles from us, about near enough, and it is said the tawny host is to follow. Well! be it so, one thing our friends may be assured of, we are not scared yet. We shall never be Hulled. Our General is thoughtful but firm. We have been reconnoitering this morning, and shall probably this afternoon fix upon a spot to which we shall remove in case the armistice is broken off. We have a piece of ground in view where our little force may make a tolerable stand, and then secure our retreat unless they flank us wider than I believe their force will admit. At any rate we will not be Hulled—they may *pound* us or *grind* us. Be all of you of good cheer as respects *us*, and use the fate of the other army as you *ought*. Now don't let my good wife get fidgety about me in this new predicament. Tell her I am well and can *run* like a boy and *will not be taken*. I confess we are very solicitous to hear from Washington and know what we are to do, and take our measures accordingly. The night before last one of our rash subalterns with a dozen men went upon Buckhorn Island, surprised a sergeant and five men and brought them off. We broke the armistice, but Gen. V. R. restored the men and wrote General Sheaffe, commanding Fort George and dependencies, &c., &c., &c. (Kites fly best with long tails.) 120 of Swift's little Regt. sick. I told you so, but I am well. The devil seems to have got into everybody.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 218-9.)

General Dearborn to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, August 26th, 1812.

SIR,—It is with regret I have to inform Your Excellency that the President of the United States has received no official information from your Government which will warrant a continuance of the provisional measure that was temporarily agreed on between Your Excellency (through the agency of Col. Baynes) and myself. I have therefore to inform Your Excellency that at the expiration of four days from the time that this communication shall have reached the commanding officer at Montreal, and copies to the same effect shall have been received by the respective commanding officers on the frontier, viz., at Niagara and Ogdensburg on the side of the United States, and the British commanding officers in Upper Canada at Niagara and Kingston, I shall consider the arrangement before

attended to for a mutual suspension of active hostilities as no longer obligatory on either party; and if a suspension of offensive operations shall have been mutually consented to between General Hull and the commanding officer of the British force at or near Detroit, as proposed, they will respectively be authorized at the expiration of four days subsequent to their receiving copies of the communication to consider themselves released from any agreement thus entered into.

Captain Pinkney, one of my aides-de-camp, is charged with the conveyance of this communication to Your Excellency or the commanding officer at Montreal. I have sent copies of this communication to the respective commanding officers on the side of the United States, on the frontiers, with copies directed to the British commanding officers at Niagara, Kingston and Detroit, and directions to have the copies intended for the British officers respectively conveyed to them without delay.

I cannot on this occasion refrain from expressing to Your Excellency my ardent wish that measures may speedily be adopted for effecting such an honorable and permanent peace between our governments as will establish the most harmonious intercourse between the two nations so deeply interested in the offices of reciprocal friendship.

(From Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 58.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 26th August, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a proclamation which I have this day received from Major General Brock, under cover of his letter of this date to me, a copy of which letter I also transmit to you. My letter to Major General Sheaffe, of which mention is made, was to disavow the imprudent act of a subaltern officer who with a few soldiers and citizens passed over since the armistice to Buckhorn Island and there surprised a sergeant and five men of the enemy and brought them off together with their boat, which men I ordered to be immediately released and their boat restored.

The surrender of General Hull's army excites a great deal of alarm in this vicinity. I shall, however, as far as in my power check and keep it under.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 32.)

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, Albany, Augt. 27th, 1812.

In pursuance of a requisition made by the authority of the President of the United States, the Sixth Brigade of detached militia of this State commanded by Brigadier-General Daniel Miller of Cortlandt County and composed of the regiments whereof Farrand Stranahan and Thompson Meade are Lieutenant Colonels Commandant, and the Ninth Regiment of the Third detached brigade of infantry, to the command of which Peter J. Vosburgh has been assigned as Lt.-Col. Commandant, are hereby ordered into the service of the United States, and will rendezvous for that purpose by battalions on Tuesday, the 8th day of September next, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, at such places as the respective commandants of the said detached regiments shall assign for that purpose.

The non-commissioned officers and privates must appear completely equipped with their own clothing and a musket or rifle, cartridge box, knapsack, blanket and canteen. Tents, camp kettles and the means of transporting baggage will be ready on the day and at the respective places of rendezvous.

The volunteers and men drafted from the rifle battalions of Rensselaer County, from Captain Waterman's Light Infantry at Hudson, and from the two light infantry companies at Troy, are expected from and will not rendezvous with the detached corps above mentioned, but will remain and march with their said respective companies as may be directed by future General Orders.

The officers, non-commissioned officers or privates who shall refuse a prompt compliance with this order will be dealt with as directed by the Act of Congress, passed the 26th day of February, 1795, of which a copy is annexed.

The Commander-in-Chief flatters himself that no one will be so unmindful of the duty of a citizen soldier as to incur the penalties of the said Act, but that on the contrary a unanimous disposition will prevail to manifest the promptitude and efficacy of a patriotic militia when called into the service of their country.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

ROBERT MACOMB,
Lt.-Col. and Aid-de-Camp.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, August 28th, 1812.

The army under the command of Brigadier-General Hull has surrendered at Detroit. This is a national disaster, but it is the duty of *soldiers* to turn even disasters to profit. To this end the General calls upon the troops under his command to make every effort in perfecting that discipline on which they must rely for their own safety and for their country's honor in that crisis which may be fast approaching. The General is persuaded that Americans know the inestimable rights which they enjoy, and he confidently trusts that their bravery to defend is in proportion to the knowledge they possess of those rights.

The troops will be exercised at reveille, and from four o'clock in the afternoon, two hours instead of one, as mentioned in General Orders of the 19th instant.

Capt. Dogherty and Lieut. Hewit of Lieut.-Col. Swift's regiment are released from their arrests, and will return to their duty. This renewed instance of clemency of the Major General it is hoped will be properly appreciated by them. It is not his wish to punish, but orders must and shall be obeyed.

The unhealthy state of the troops under the command of Lieut.-Col. Swift at Black Rock renders particular attention to them and the causes of their maladies necessary. For this purpose Doctor Brown will associate with him Doctor Daniel Chipman, and they will proceed without delay to that place and make full inquiry into the situation of the sick, the causes which have produced the diseases and the manner in which they have been treated, of all which they will make report in writing to the Major General, suggesting the best mode in their opinion to restore those who are sick and preserve the health of the well.

These and all other orders are to be read by the adjutants to the troops under the command of the Major General. The commanding officers of regiments and corps will give orders accordingly.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 28th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—By the mail of this day I received your letter of the 21st inst. I had hoped that His Excellency Gov. Tompkins might have detailed to you the condition of the troops under my command on

this frontier, and also the ordnance, etc., at my command. The whole number of militia on this frontier is less than eight hundred, more than one hundred on the sick list, many without shoes and otherwise illy prepared for offensive operations. I have only five or six pieces of ordnance, none larger than six-pounders.

After having satisfied myself of the strength and condition of the enemy, I was fully convinced that however imperious the considerations which urged an immediate descent upon Canada that the result must be unfavorable. I therefore adopted the plan of concentrating my forces scattered on this line and calling in such further reinforcements as might enable me to act. But the face of things is now wholly changed by the incomprehensible disaster of General Hull's army. Within forty-eight hours past General Hull and a considerable portion of his regulars have been marched through Queenston in fair view of my camp. The effects produced by this event are such as you will readily imagine. I understand that Gen. Hull and his troops are now embarking at Fort George, probably for Montreal.

I wait with solicitude to learn the result of our Government's deliberation on the armistice, in the meantime adopting such measures as I must pursue if a recommencement of hostilities shall take place.

I shall immediately apprise Gen. Porter of your instruction respecting boats.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 58.)

General Peter B. Porter to Major General VanRensselaer.

MANCHESTER, Aug. 28th, 1812.

SIR,—Mr. Beard, the person whom I employed to go express to Gen. Hull, has returned with your despatches, which I herewith enclose. On his arrival at Cayahoga he met several boats with the militia prisoners of Gen. Hull's army, and finding it useless as well as impracticable to proceed, he returned. Mr. Beard informs that when these boats were first discovered at and beyond Cayahoga they were supposed to contain an army of British and Indians, whose object it was to over-run the country, and expresses with information to that effect were sent in every direction, and that the inhabitants were in a state of the greatest alarm and confusion and quitting their homes.

Before Mr. Beard left Cayahoga, however, about 1,000 militia had collected, and in the course of the day succeeding his departure it was pretty well ascertained that there would be about 3,000 men

at that place, tolerably armed and provided with ammunition and desirous of marching to Detroit; that about 2,000 Kentuckians were on their march to reinforce Genl. Hull, and it was hoped they would fall in with a party of Indians under *Tecumseh* who, it was understood from our prisoners, had left Detroit to take Fort Wayne. Mr. Beard on his return took great pains, and he thinks with effect, to allay the fears of the inhabitants and induce them to remain at home. I send a copy of Genl. Hull's capitulation. Major Cuyler has taken the capitulation to copy, and will send it to you.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 222-3.)

John Lovett to Abraham VanVechten.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 28th August, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—

. . . . . .

Things are bad enough now. I do not speak of our little camp. We are snug, getting in fine order, and with infinite, unceasing industry, preparing for the worst, while we hope for the best. I speak on the *general scale* of all things around us. Hull's surrender is to me incomprehensible. I had expected his destruction would be certain, but it has come in such a way as I did not expect. Three of his officers say he had a force of 2,200. The British all round assert that he has surrendered between 2,500 and 3,000; his provisions were ample for three more weeks; of ordnance and every munition of war he had abundance, yet he surrendered to a force vastly inferior, probably to 600 or 700 British troops and about the same number of Indians. He fired not a gun, and but one was fired at him. Then *why* did Hull surrender, is the question? No one here can answer. From his officers and all I have seen, it appears that there was through the whole army a very great disaffection towards Hull. Cowardice is pretty generally imputed to him. Many allege corruption; his officers seem greatly distressed at the character of the surrender. Now, the consequences of this affair cast such a blot on the American character as the tears of your children and mine and a hundred more generations can never sponge away.

This event has cemented Canada beyond anything you can conceive. It has a serious face also on our Indians on the whole frontier. The affair with Gen. Harrison gave them the scent of blood and you can depend on it, it has been well improved. Tecumsieh, the Prophet's brother, a warrior of almost unbounded influence, now openly holds the language that the Great Spirit

intended Ohio River for the boundary between his white and red children, that many of the first warriors have always thought so, but a cloud hung over the eyes of the tribes and they could not see what the Great Spirit meant, that Gen. Brock has now torn away the cloud and the Indians see clearly that all the white people must go back east of the Ohio, and if any one attempts to cross that river "*Indians will cut their toes off.*" Yesterday I beheld such a sight as God knows I never expected to see, and He only knows the sensation it created in my heart. I saw my countrymen, free-born Americans, robbed of the inheritance which their dying fathers bequeathed them, stripped of the arms which achieved our independence and marched into a strange land by hundreds as black cattle for the market.

Before and behind, on the right and on the left, their proud victors gleamed in arms and their heads erect in the pride of victory. How many of our unfortunate brethren were in this situation, I know not; the road for more than a mile is perfectly in our view. I think the line, including wagons, pleasure carriages, &c., was half a mile long, scattered. The sensations this scene produced in our camp were inexpressible; mortification, indignation, fearful apprehension, suspicion, jealousy, dismay, rage, madness.

It was a sad day with us, but the poor fellows last evening went on board the shipping and, I presume, passed over to York. I saw a gentleman who was present when Gen. Hull alighted from his carriage at Fort George, hale, corpulent, and apparently in high spirits, and hence will he ever return? He goes to Quebec. Such the scenes before us. All eyes seem now turned on General Van Rensselaer for direction and on our little army for defence. I tell you nothing, but the man who is now on the ground could prevent incalculable mischief in this quarter. It is his respectability and character which effects all that is effected, and I am proud to say he is assiduously, vigilantly and ably supported. We have plenty to do from the 4 o'clock morning gun until 9 at night. . .

. . . . . .

I saw a gentleman who had this day seen one of Hull's captains, who openly and roundly asserted that Hull was a *coward*, that as soon as the first gun was fired he sat down with his back against a solid protection.

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 230-1.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 29th Aug., 1812.

The Major General is gratified with the attention which is paid by the officers to the health of the men. Striking the tents as has been this morning done will in a great measure prevent disease among the troops, and the General recommends that it will be done as often as occasion may require, and that cleanliness be observed in every particular by individuals of the army. It is absolutely necessary to the preservation of health. It is particularly enjoined on those who have charge of the few sick in this camp and the hospital to see that they are well supplied with everything necessary for their accommodation, and that expert and faithful nurses are provided to attend them.

On this occasion the General cannot refrain from expressing his satisfaction at the attention of the officers in general to their duty, and the orderly conduct of the soldiers in obeying orders. Such cheerful and soldier-like behavior is to him a cheerful presage of what he has to expect from them in the hour "which will try men's souls."

To the commanding officer of the 7th Brigade, and to the colonels of the 18th and 20th Regiments, the General tenders his acknowledgements for their strict attention to the discipline of the troops and the preservation of their health.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER,
Aid-de-Camp.

General Peter B. Porter to Governor Tompkins.

BLACK ROCK, Aug. 30, 1812.

SIR,—I know that you must be borne down by the weight of official duty, and, not having received any answers to my former letters, I have for some time past forborne to trouble you.

I have now only to ask once more *in short*, what I have before pressed on Your Excellency *in detail*, in the hope that you will spare five minutes to answer and relieve me from the state of uncertainty in which I am placed.

My request is that if you consider me in service you would authorize me generally to provide such things in the Quartermaster-General's department as in the opinion of the officers commanding are necessary to the support and successful operations of the army, and that you will forward to me the necessary funds to do it, as it is extremely difficult to raise the requisite sums from bills.

The above is all I have to write on the business of my department, and to which I should be gratified by an answer. What follows Your Excellency will read or not, as leisure or inclination may dictate.

Three days ago we witnessed a sight which made my heart sick within me, and the emotions which it excited throughout the whole of our troops along the line who were eye-witnesses are not to be described. The heroes of Tippecanoe, with the garrisons of Detroit and Mackinac, amounting to about five hundred men, were marched like cattle from Fort Erie to Fort George, guarded by General Brock's regular troops with all the parade and pomp of British insolence, and we were incapacitated by the armistice and by our own weakness from giving them the relief which they seemed anxiously to expect, and could only look on and sicken at the sight.

In March last I urged on the President and to the Secretaries of War and the Navy the necessity of having a naval force on the lakes superior to that of the British, which might have been done at an expense of less than one hundred thousand dollars (as I then demonstrated), and ready to act by the first of July. I also urged them, and have not ceased to do it since, the expediency of having land forces ready to act immediately after the declaration of war at different points along the frontier, so as to prevent the concentration of the British forces at any one place. With 4,000 men on this river one month ago in a condition to act, the whole of Upper Canada and the Indian country would now have been in our quiet possession. But unfortunately the counsels of men who knew the country were rejected or disregarded, and what is now the terrible reverse of the picture, which some regard to their advice, frequently and strenuously urged, would have prevented? Detroit and a brave army taken—the Indians let loose upon our frontiers—the inhabitants flying in every direction—Brock, with his army and Indians and thousands of inspirited Canadians and a powerful train of field and garrison ordnance taken from General Hull, arrived on this frontier and ready to act. Indeed, it is now reduced to a certainty that the inhabitants of this river, with their property, are doomed to feel the scourge and desolation of war. The hour that closes the armistice will bring ruin to most of them who live on this frontier. But I should not be appalled by the prospect if I could see some spirit and energy awakened in those who direct the destinies of the nation. For the last two months I could have traversed the wilds of Canada, fought with Indians only and subjected myself to all the inconvenience of the country without suffering half what I have done by the terrible state of inactivity and uncertainty in

which we have been placed, and such are the feelings of all the brave men on this river.

We have been daily amused for two months with news of the approach of heavy ordnance, of flying artillery, of regular troops, &c., &c., to this frontier, but none have arrived. They come to Utica and then disappear. They timidly dance backward and forward in the interior of the country, without knowing what to do or being of service anywhere. The Genesee River, Sodus, Oswego, and the brig at Sackett's Harbor, are all alternately to be defended, as a British ship appears to pass from one end of the lake to the other. This miserable and timid system of defence must be abandoned, or the nation is ruined and disgraced. Make a bold push at any one point and you will find your enemy, give them as much business as they can attend to at Niagara and at Ogdensburg, and you will not see them groping among the marshes of Sodus to pillage the miserable huts of the poor inhabitants. But it is needless for me to say more; my views have been long known.

Excuse the incoherence and abruptness of this letter. It is written in a state of mind little short of distraction, occasioned by the events of the West and the situation of my brother, who has been at the point of death for ten days past, but who, thank God, is now recovering. I trust I am addressing myself to friends, and, I know, with the best motives and wishes for them and my country.

I do not feel disposed to condemn a public man on the slight ground of rumor and before he has had an impartial trial, but I have conversed with several gentlemen who were at Detroit at the time of its surrender, and if their representations are to be credited, that event will make one of the foulest blots on the page of American history. Yesterday a number of men were shot at Fort George in view of our troops. They are supposed to be the unfortunate fellows who joined General Hull in Canada and were surrendered at Detroit, and for whose protection provision should have been made in the capitulation at the expense of the life of every man in the garrison.

I have enclosed a copy of this letter so far as it is contained on the first sheet to the Secretary of War, for whom, indeed, it was intended with the exception of the request at the beginning.

The public mind in this quarter is wrought up almost to a state of madness. Jealousy and distrust begin to prevail toward the general officers, occasioned perhaps by the rash and imprudent expressions on politics of some of the persons attached to them, but principally by the surrender of Detroit, which among the common people is almost universally ascribed to treachery.

I have entire confidence in the honor and patriotism as well as

the military promptitude and judgment of General VanRensselaer and shall most cheerfully submit to his guidance. But if it is his wish (and I think it is and that he will express it to you) to return, it would inspire great confidence in the troops and the country to have you or General D. Clinton take the command.

We shall probably be attacked when the armistice is off, but I trust in God, not surrendered.

Governor Tompkins:—

I could wish, if you have no objections, that this letter may be seen by Mr. Clinton, between whom and yourself I ardently hope for the sake of my country in its present perilous situation that the greatest cordiality may exist.

(Copy of a Letter to the Secretary of War.)

BLACK ROCK, Aug. 30, 1812.

SIR,—I enclose you a copy of my letter of this date to Governor Tompkins, to which I must beg your serious attention.

For God's sake, my friend, arouse and put forth the energies of the nation, and let us not be beaten by a petty province. War can never be waged by tedious and two-penny calculations of economy in the office at Washington. The poor but patriotic citizens of Ohio and the frontiers of New York are suffering all the miseries of poverty and war. They alone are called out because, perhaps, their march to the frontiers is shorter, and therefore cheaper, while the rich inhabitants of Pennsylvania are lolling in security and ease.

As one of the inhabitants of this frontier, I can submit to the loss of property; I can see with composure (what is now actually presented to my view) my vessels riding under British colors in a British harbor, but I cannot endure the degradation of my country.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 96-102, New York State Library.)

Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, Aug. 30, 1812.

SIR,—I received on the 25th, while at St. John's, your despatch by express from Detroit of the 16th instant. I do most sincerely congratulate you upon the complete success which has attended your measures for the preservation of Amherstburg. The surrender of Detroit, the capture of General Hull's army with so large a proportion of ordnance, are circumstances of high importance to our country, and which have evinced your talents as an officer in command and reflect honor upon you and upon Lieut.-Colonel St. George and Colonel Procter.

I propose sending an aid-de-camp to England with your short despatch, together with such details as I am in possession of, respecting Brigadier-General Hull's previous invasion of Upper Canada and of his foiled attempts to invade Amherstburg, but I shall delay his departure from hence until the 1st of September, in hopes of obtaining from you before that time further particulars of the operations which led to General Hull's disgrace.

Well aware of the difficulties you have surmounted for the preservation of your government entire, I shall endeavor to do justice to your merit in my report to His Majesty's Minister upon the success which has crowned your energy and zeal.

A warrant giving you more extensive power over the sentence of such general courts-martial as you may be called on to assemble, was signed by me ten days since, and has, I hope, reached you.

I am in hourly expectation of receiving from General Dearborn intelligence respecting the reception of the proposed suspension of hostilities in consequence of the revocation of the Orders-in-Council which are a plea for war in the American Cabinet, and also whether Mr. Baker has been allowed to assume *pro tempore* the character of a charge d'affaires at Washington, where Mr. Foster left him in a demi-official capacity. I consider the arrangement entered into by General Dearborn with Colonel Baynes requiring the confirmation of the President to establish its sacredness.

The King's Government having most unequivocally expressed to me their desire to preserve peace with the United States, that they might, uninterrupted, pursue with the whole disposable force of the country the great interest committed in Europe, I have endeavored to be instrumental in the accomplishment of their views, but I consider it most fortunate to have been enabled to do so without interfering with operations on the Detroit.

I have sent you men, money and stores of every kind.

P. S.—I have addressed to you a public letter containing my sentiments upon Major General Sheaffe's alterations in original conclusive and binding conditions transmitted to him by the Adjutant-General.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 274-5.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, August 31, 1812.

SIR,—Presuming that the surrender of General Hull's army has been officially announced to Your Excellency through the proper channel, I shall not enter into any details upon the event so

disastrous to our country. Its consequences must be felt everywhere, but they are particularly distressing upon these frontiers, both to the citizens and the little army under my command. Alarm pervades the country and distrust among the troops. They are incessantly pressing for furloughs under every possible pretence. Many are without shoes; all clamorous for pay. Many are sick. Swift's regiment at Black Rock are about one-fourth part down. I have ordered Doctor Brown to associate Doctor Chapin with him, and to examine as to the causes producing the diseases, the mode of treating them, &c., and to report to me the best means of preserving the health of those who remain well. This duty they are now performing.

Captain Jennings has been tried by a courtmartial and found guilty of such charges as forfeited his commission, and I have approved the sentence. The proceedings in form will soon be forwarded to Your Excellency.

While we are thus growing daily weaker, our enemy is growing stronger. They hold a very commanding position on the high ground above Queenston, and they are daily strengthening themselves in it with men and ordnance. Indeed they are fortifying almost every prominent point from Fort Erie to Fort George. At present we rest upon the armistice, but should hostilities be recommenced I must immediately change my position. I receive no reinforcement of men, no ordnance or munitions of war. I must hope that I shall not long be left in this situation.

Two gentlemen, Messrs. Johnson and Bascom, came over in a flag to the garrison at Niagara, and the first I knew of it they were in my camp. Being satisfied that they were American citizens, men of intelligence and some standing in society, I permitted them to pass on with orders to report themselves to Your Excellency.

There is one fact which, though not immediately connected with my department, I cannot refrain from mentioning. The unfortunate soldiers of General Hull's army who marched by my camp on their way to Lower Canada are very destitute of clothing. Every consideration would urge that some attention should be paid to their condition.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 34; Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 105-7, New York State Library.)

Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, Aug. 31, 1812.

SIR,—I had scarcely closed the letters I addressed to you yesterday when an aide-de-camp from Major General Dearborn

made his appearance and delivered to me the despatch herewith transmitted. It will expose to your view the disposition of the President of the United States on the provisional measure temporarily agreed upon between the American commander-in-chief and myself in consequence of an earnest desire not to widen the breach existing between the two countries, the revocation of the Orders-in-Council having removed the plea used in Congress for a declaration of war against Great Britain.

I am much disappointed that the particulars of the surrender of Detroit have not as yet reached me, particularly as my aide-de-camp, Captain Coore, is to leave Montreal this evening for Quebec, where a ship of war is on the point of sailing for Halifax, from whence I expect the admiral will give him a conveyance for England.

Being unacquainted with the conditions attached to the surrender of Brigadier-General Hull's army, and giving scope to your expressions of prisoners of war, I have made arrangements for increasing their security against any attempt to rescue them, by ordering Captain Gray to proceed with two flank companies to Prescott.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, p. 276.)

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 1st Septr., 1812.

Militia General Orders.

Major General Brock has been pleased to direct that such of the militia as have lately returned from Detroit, and who received leave of absence, shall receive pay and rations till the 24th instant, should their furlough so long continue.

By order.

J. MACDONELL,
Lt.-Col. Militia, P. A. D. C.

Major General VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 1st Sept., 1812.

SIR,—In the letter which I had the honor to address to Your Excellency yesterday, I mentioned the general alarm which the surrender of General Hull's army has spread through the frontier. The inhabitants everywhere think themselves in danger. This is particularly the case in the County of Chautauqua, and in consequence of representations made to me by the inhabitants of that county, I had on the 27th ulto. issued an order to Lieut.-Colonel

John McMahon to order into service two full companies of his regiment for the protection of its inhabitants, designating in my order where they should be stationed. This morning again I have been called upon by Captains Baldwin and Mack, gentlemen of respectability from that county, very earnestly soliciting in behalf of the inhabitants still further force for their protection, and I have issued another order to Lieut.-Colonel McMahon to detach one captain, two sergeants and 26 privates more for the service aforesaid, until Your Excellency's pleasure can be known on the subject.

2d September, 4 o'clock p. m.

Colonel Fenwick has not yet arrived at Fort Niagara, and of course I have not delivered the letter of yesterday received by express from Major General Dearborn. Four or five vessels have just arrived at Fort George, it is supposed with reinforcements. Our enemy appear to be on the alert at every point.

This morning Lieut. Branch with about 40 men and two pieces of flying artillery arrived, also Captain Camp with about 25 dragoons.

P. S.—The company of Captain Jennings in Colonel Swift's regiment had become so clamorous for pay and contended so strenuously that their time had expired that I have ordered them to be discharged. I was strengthened in my belief that this would meet your approbation by learning from Brigadier General Brown that you had ordered Colonel Bellinger's regiment to be discharged.

(Tompkins' Papers, vol. VIII., pp. 103-5, New York State Library.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON,
1st September, 1812.

SIR,—I have just received your letter of the 25th ult. I shall ascertain the movements and situation of Lieut.-Col. Fenwick with the cannon and stores, and as soon as he can be considered safe I shall terminate the armistice in the manner prescribed.

Upon this occasion I conceive it a duty I owe to my country, to the troops under my command, and to my own character, to state that we are not on this frontier in that condition which the approaching crisis will require. My force of militia, rank and file, now fit for duty, is six hundred and ninety-one, as will appear by the enclosed return. These have to guard a line of thirty-six miles. My sick list is more than one hundred. Many of the men are without shoes, and all are clamorous for pay. Besides, it is a fact that cannot be concealed that the surrender of General Hull's army

has spread great alarm among the inhabitants on this frontier, and I every day perceive strong symptoms of distrust among the troops. They have seen their countrymen surrendered without a single effort and marched prisoners before their eyes. They cannot comprehend it.

At this hour, I have received no reinforcements of men, no supplies of ordnance, tents, nor ammunition. There are not ten rounds per man on the Niagara frontier, nor have we lead to make cartridges. We are extremely deficient of medicine and hospital stores; of lint and bandage cloth we have none, nor any surgical instruments. Lieut.-Col. Swift's regiment at Black Rock and the troops in garrison at Niagara have no tents to take the field; unless Bloom's regiment and the troops with Lieut.-Col. Fenwick have tents with them they cannot be covered. This is a brief sketch of our condition. Our enemy are every moment on the alert. They hold a very commanding position on the high ground above Queenston, and are daily strengthing it with men and ordnance. Indeed almost every point of any importance from Fort Erie to Fort George is in some state of defence. At each fort on the lakes their shipping is ready to act. The troops which had been detached from this quarter to act against General Hull have returned, and may now be concentrated at this point. Before the termination of the armistice I must change my position, and can only act on the defensive until I shall be reinforced with troops well disciplined and commanded by able officers.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 37.)

Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, 1st Sept., 1812.

SIR,—I received your letter of the 25th ult. this morning, enclosing a communication from Capt. Leonard. The fall of Gen. Hull and the army under his command is as mortifyng, as it was unexpected. We must endeavor to redeem our honor by increasing our exertions. In addition to the militia detachments ordered from this State and two thousand ordered from the northwestern part of Pennsylvania to Niagara, three regiments of the new-raised troops of the army have been some days on their march towards your post. I am forwarding additional supplies of muskets and cannon, with forty batteaux, to Niagara. A detachment of troops will accompany the boats from Oswego. It will be necessary to have teams ready to take the stores and boats from a safe landing place, and it may be well to order a detachment to meet the boats at some

distance from Niagara on the shore. I hope Lieut.-Col. Fenwick, with the troops and stores under his command, will have arrived in season. *I have no doubt but that you will improve the earliest opportunity for retaliating on the enemy our misfortunes at Detroit.* Gen. Dodge goes to Sackett's Harbor with a fine force. I have detached Gen. Bloomfield with a brigade of regular troops with artillery, &c., to Plattsburg, and other troops, in addition to the militia of this State and Vermont, will accompany or follow him.

I shall endeavor to draw the reinforcements back from Upper Canada to Montreal.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 40.)

Col. S. VanRensselaer to his Wife.

LEWISTON, 1st September, 1812.

DEAR HARRIET,—I wrote you yesterday by mail, in which letter I gave you an account of all that was passing here. This day we received an express from Genl. Dearborn that the armistice was at an end. But at the time he was despatched from Greenbush they knew nothing of the surrender of General Hull and his army, and what effect that information will have on the measures of a weak and despicable General and Government, time only will determine. We shall at all events go on and make all the arrangements in our power to meet the crisis which, in all probability, is approaching. If nothing is done it will not be our fault, but that of Government. By express and by almost every mail the Governor and Genl. Dearborn have been informed of our situation.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 224.)

From the Buffalo Gazette of Tuesday, 1st September, 1812.

[NOTE—Extras had been issued on Thursday, August 27th, and Saturday, August 29th, giving details of the surrender of Detroit.]

On Tuesday evening last 4 or 5 British vessels hove in sight of the village, and lay a few miles off Buffalo Creek during the night. Yesterday morning they came down and anchored off Fort Erie. About noon a flag of truce came into Buffalo Creek and landed Captain Baker, late of General Hull's army.

The armed ships which brought down Hull's *vanguard* have all returned.

On Wednesday last Major Mullany arrived here from the Canandaigua rendezvous with about 140 troops for the frontier.

Arrived yesterday, 40 mounted artillerists with two pieces of

flying artillery, on their way to Lewiston. They state two 24-pounders, four 18-pounders, and four 9-pounders were coming through Lake Ontario for Niagara.

From the United States Gazette, of Philadelphia, Sept. 25th, 1812.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of Providence, Rhode Island, now on his travels, dated at Buffalo Creek the 2d inst.:

I am here surrounded by Indians, and the British Fort Erie, 3 miles distant. Six tribes of Indians, who are holding a council in this vicinity, it is said, are offended by a report that they will not be admitted into our army, but I presume they will be convinced to the contrary, though the agent is desirous of their remaining neutral. There are now near 3,000 men, mostly militia and volunteers, on our lines, but having to guard 20 miles of the River Niagara they are much scattered, and an attack has been for the two last days expected, which, if speedily made by the British, I cannot see what will hinder them from possessing all the forts here. There are 10 or 12 small pieces of cannon here (although more are expected) to oppose upwards of 100 pieces on the other shore, some of which are of the heaviest calibre. To complete the gloomy prospect here, our garrison is almost destitute of ammunition; besides our soldiers are very jealous of their officers.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

From Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Sept. 2d, 1812.

SIR,—I send this by express for the purpose of putting you on your guard against an attack that I have reason to apprehend is intended by the enemy. A considerable force has lately passed into Upper Canada for the obvious purpose of striking not only at Detroit but at other posts. From the number of troops which have left Montreal for Upper Canada, I am not without fear that attempts will speedily be made to reduce you and your forces to the mortifying situation of Gen. Hull and his army. If such an attempt of the enemy should be made previous to the arrival of the principal part of the troops destined to Niagara, it will be necessary for you to be prepared for all events, *and to be prepared to make good a secure retreat, as the last resort.* I hope, however, you will not be reduced to the mortifying alternative of falling back. But from the unfortunate event at Detroit we may expect great exertions on the part of the enemy, and as far as the means in our

power will admit, we, I trust, shall be at least equally vigilant and active.

P. S.—The Frigate *Guerriere* has been captured and sunk by the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Capt. Hull.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 42.

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON,
2d September, 1812.

SIR,—Major General VanRensselaer directs that you land the troops, cannon, and stores under your command at the Four-Mile Creek, and make every military preparation to protect them, and to give him immediate information of your arrival by express.

By order.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER,
Aid-de-Camp.

Lieut.-Col. Fenwick, Light Artillery.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 39.)

Major General Brock to his Brothers.

LAKE ONTARIO, Sept. 3, 1812.

You will have heard of the complete success which attended the efforts I directed against Detroit. I have received so many letters from people whose opinion I value, expressive of their admiration of the exploit, that I begin to attach to it more importance than I was at first inclined. Should the affair be viewed in England in the light it is here, I cannot fail of meeting reward and escaping the horror of being placed high on a shelf, never to be taken down.

Some say that nothing could be more desperate than the measure, but I answer that the state of the Province admitted of nothing but desperate remedies. I got possession of the letters my antagonist addressed to the Secretary at War, and also of the sentiments which hundreds of his army uttered to their friends. Confidence in the General was gone, and evident despondency prevailed throughout. I have succeeded beyond expectation. I crossed the river contrary to the opinion of Cols. Procter, St. George, &c.; it is therefore no wonder that envy should attribute to good fortune what in justice to my own discernment, I must say, proceeded from a cool calculation of the *pours* and *contres.*

It is supposed that the value of the articles captured will amount to 30 or £40,000; in that case my proposition will be something considerable. If it enable me to contribute to your comfort and happiness, I shall esteem it my highest reward. When I returned Heaven thanks for my amazing success, I thought of you all. You appeared to me happy—your late sorrows forgotten, and I felt as if the many benefits which for a series of years I received from you were not unworthily bestowed. Let me know, my dearest brothers, that you are all again united. The want of union was nearly losing this Province without even a struggle, and be assured it operates in the same degree in regard to families.

A cessation of hostilities has taken place along this frontier. Should peace follow, the measure will be well; if hostilities recommence, nothing could be more unfortunate than this pause. I cannot give you freely an account of my situation; it is, however, of late, much improved. The militia have been inspired by the recent success with confidence—the disaffected are silenced. The 49th have come to my aid, besides other troops. I shall see Vincent, I hope, this evening at Kingston. He is appointed to the command of that post—a most important one. I have withdrawn Plenderleath from Niagara to assist him. Plenderleath is sitting opposite me, and desires to be remembered. James Brock is likewise at Kingston. I believe he considers it more his interest to remain with the 49th than to act as my private secretary; indeed the salary is a mere pittance. Poor Leggatt is dead, and has left his family in the most distressing circumstances. His wife died last year.

. . . . . .

General Sheaffe has lately been sent to me. There never was an individual so miserably off for the necessary assistance. Sir George Prevost has kindly hearkened to my remonstrances, and in some measure supplied the deficiency. The 41st is an uncommonly fine regiment, but, with few exceptions, badly officered. . .

. . . . . .

KINGSTON, September 4.

I this instant received your letters by Mr. Todd. So honest John Tupper is gone. I could not have loved a son of my own more ardently. Hostilities, I this instant understand, are to be renewed in four days, and, though landed only two hours, I must return immediately to Niagara, whence I shall write fully.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock: pp. 284-6.

Lieutenant-Colonel John R. Fenwick, Light Artillery, to Major General VanRensselaer.

FOUR-MILE CREEK, September 3, 1812.

SIR,—Agreeable to your instructions, I am landing the ordnance and stores at this place. They are of great importance, and I do not think them safe in this position. The powder I must keep on board, as it will sustain injury by being taken out. I pray you, sir, to assist me so soon as possible, and receive the assurance of my consideration and respect.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 40.)

Colonel Solomon VanRensselaer to Lieut.-Col. Fenwick.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, September 3, 1812.

SIR,—Major General VanRensselaer has ordered the Quartermaster to proceed immediately to Four-Mile Creek and furnish you with the necessary transportation for the cannon and military stores in your charge, and has also detached one captain, one subaltern and forty men to assist you in their removal and protection to this place. The troops and wagons will reach you this evening.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 40.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 4th Sept., 1812.

The Major General announces to the troops that, agreeable to an order received from Major General Dearborn, the armistice entered into between him and the Governor-General of Canada will be terminated at twelve o'clock at noon on the eighth day of September instant.

The troops under his command will, however, understand explicitly that they are not to act offensively without previous orders from him, but to be vigilant in their duty and ready to execute any command they may receive when a proper occasion presents itself.

The troops will strike their tents to-morrow morning at reveille; the tents, tent poles and baggage will be packed up ready to move in one hour from that time. The quartermaster will measure the space necessary for a double row of tents and furnish the necessary transportation.

A fatigue party of a sergeant, corporal and twelve men will attend at the same time at headquarters.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, September 4, 1812.

SIR,—Upon my arrival here an hour ago, Captain Fulton delivered me Your Excellency's despatch, dated the 31st ultimo, enclosing a letter from General Dearborn, in which the President's disapproval of the armistice is announced. I am in consequence induced to return without loss of time to Fort George. Captain Fulton having expressed a wish to accompany me, I have the more readily consented as he will be able to give you full information of our actual state. The enemy was very busy upon Fort Niagara, and appeared inclined to erect additional batteries. I may perhaps think it proper to stop their career.

I enclose several documents lately received from Colonel Procter at Detroit. That officer appears to have conducted himself with much judgment. I likewise transmit a memorial which I have received from some merchants in the Niagara District, but of course I cannot judge of its merits.

I shall be obliged to Your Excellency to direct a remittance of the £5,000, for which I sent a requisition some time ago, on account of the civil expenditure of this Province, either in Government paper or specie, as you may deem most convenient. I doubt not the former meeting a ready currency.

The very flattering manner in which Your Excellency is pleased to view my services, and your kindness in having represented them to His Majesty's ministers in such favorable light, are gratifying to me, and call for my grateful acknowledgements.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 301-2.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 4th, 1812.

SIR,—By the articles which I had the honor to conclude with Major General Sheaffe on the 21st ult. for the government of the troops of the United States under my command and His Britannic Majesty's forces on this frontier during the temporary armistice, it was among other things stipulated that "*the party who shall first receive orders for the renewal of hostilities shall give four days' notice, computing twenty-four hours to each day, before any offensive operation shall take place.*"

Having now received orders to terminate the armistice, in conformity to the above recited stipulation I have the honor to transmit you this notice, that the armistice will be terminated at twelve o'clock at noon on Tuesday, the eighth day of September inst.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 41.)

The Secretary of War to Major General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Sept. 4, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Captain Chauncey has been directed to take immediate measures to obtain command of Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Major General Sheaffe to Major General VanRensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 5th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of receiving your communication signifying the intention on the part of the United States of renewing hostilities after four days shall have elapsed from the period at which the notice was given—thus declaring that the armistice shall terminate at twelve o'clock at noon on the eighth day of this September.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 42.)

Colonel S. VanRensselaer to Abraham VanVechten.

LEWISTON, 5th September, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—This morning Mr. Swan arrived (in three days from Albany) on express from Gen. Dearborn with information that a large body of British troops had left Montreal for the opposite bank of this river, and cautioning Gen. V. R. to guard against a surprise from them, and if hard pressed to make a safe retreat. His caution against a surprise is unnecessary, and as for a retreat, we *shall not think* of it until we have tried some blustering Democrats, who pretend to be full of fighting and crossing the river, but their opinions as to crossing no attention will be paid to until it is proper. We should come to action, and then they will be brought to a close one. With the force which arrived yesterday under the command of Lt.-Col. Fenwick, we have in the aggregate of regular troops and militia *two thousand two hundred* men detached on a frontier of forty miles, from Fort Niagara to Buffalo, while the British have opposed to us (besides the force Dearborn speaks of), from every information we can get, and from their appearance every day in our view, at least that number of regular troops, with strong batteries at every crossing point to meet [us], and of these there are but very few, owing to the extreme height of the banks.

In short, we are deficient in almost everything. Four 18-pounders, two twelve pounders, eight sixes, and two fours are all the ordnance we have for the defence of this line; two sixes, honey combed, some of them without shot and six without harness. Fort

Niagara not tenable. (You all suppose it impregnable. Not so, it cannot be maintained fifteen minutes.) The stores are now removing with a view to abandon it, and in this place Capt. Leonard buried two 13-inch mortars and six $8\frac{1}{2}$-inch howitzers for the want of shells.

No surgical instruments, lint, bandage or hospital stores, no forage and no quartermaster. Peter B. Porter has been only twice in camp since we have been here, and instead of getting the force ready is attending to his private affairs. He is an abominable scoundrel, and I make no secret in telling his friends so.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 226-7.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON,
5th Sept., 1812, 7 p. m.

SIR,—The express has just arrived with your letter of the 2d inst. I thank you for the information which your letter contains and for suggesting precautions against a disaster which would deeply implicate the honor of my country, the fate of the little army under my command, and my own character.

Every exertion which the small force I command can make to avoid either a surprise or defeat will be attempted. So small and scattered has been my little band, and so depressed by the fate of Gen. Hull, that every movement has been heavy. But within forty-eight hours the scene seems to have changed a little for the better. Lieut.-Col. Fenwick has arrived safe with the cannon and stores. To avoid any possible casualty, I ordered them landed at the Four-Mile Creek, a little below Fort Niagara, and from thence they have been brought by land; the boats have returned. A battalion of about seventy riflemen which, on the 16th ult. I had ordered from Oswego, has this day arrived here.

I have determined, with the concurrence of Lieut.-Col. Fenwick's opinion, to throw up a strong battery on this side of Fort Niagara, on the bank of the river, and there place the four eighteen-pounders. With this view, I went this morning on the spot, and we have broke ground. This evening Lieut.-Col. Fenwick and Capt. Leonard are with me. I understand our movement has produced great activity at Fort George. The enemy have immediately commenced some new works. It is my intention to support the battery near Fort Niagara with as strong a camp as I am able and to cut a road back of it for greater safety in case I should be hard pressed.

Agreeably to your instructions, I waited, for the safety of Lieut.-Col. Fenwick, the cannon and stores, before I gave notice necessary to terminate the armistice conformably to the stipulations between Major Gen. Sheaffe and myself. The notice was delivered at Fort George yesterday before noon, and by it the armistice will be terminated at 12 o'clock at noon on the 8th inst. This day Major Gen. Sheaffe has acknowledged the receipt of my notice. My present camp being within reach of the enemy's guns on the high grounds at Queenston, I have determined to quit. I had designated a spot for my new encampment about one mile from the river, on the ridge road, but I may reconsider this subject. It might be expected from my situation that I could, with facility, obtain correct information of the enemy's force and movements in this vicinity, but such is not the fact. Every effort for that purpose is absolutely vain. I can only obtain information too general to calculate upon. It is generally believed that the enemy are concentrating their forces to this neighborhood, but what their numbers are is to me wholly unknown. They appear to be on the alert.

At Fort Niagara we have (concealed) two thirteen and-a-half inch brass mortars and four eight and-a-half inch howitzers. Capt. Leonard has this evening handed me a memorandum of articles that in his opinion, which I respect, are very much wanted for these pieces and some others, as follows:—

400 shells for the mortars.

1,600 canister and grape shot for the howitzers.

16 dozen portfires—harness complete, for the mortars and howitzers; also wanted, harness for the 6 six pounders now at Fort Niagara.

With the information of which you are possessed relative to my force and that of the enemy, I presume you cannot expect that I shall immediately attempt to act offensively. I shall endeavor to watch the motions of the enemy as far as possible, and so dispose my little force as to avoid a surprise or risking too much with raw troops in case the enemy should cross to attack me. The surrender of Gen. Hull's army has put it in the power of the enemy to turn a strong force to act either defensively or offensively against me. My situation requires arduous duty; it may be critical, but I shall meet events in that manner which my judgment shall dictate as most prudent and safe, and to the utmost of my power discharge my duty.

The conduct of Capt. Hull in the *Constitution* was gallant indeed, and has justified the high expectations we have all entertained of our navy and the brave men who command it.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 43.)

Regimental Orders by Lt.-Colonel Chewett, Commanding 3d Regt., York Militia.

YORK, 5 September, 1812.

In consequence of the flank companies of said regiment, now in the Garrison of York, under the command of Major Allan, having been ordered by Major General Sheaffe on the 4th instant to proceed with all possible speed to Fort George, the following officers, non-commissioned officers and privates detached by their respective quotas from the battalion companies of said regiment are hereby directed to compose the following companies and to do duty in the said garrison until further orders:—

1st—Captain Denison.
Lt. Endicott.
Ensign McArthur.
3 sergeants.
42 rank and file.

2nd—Captain Ridout.
Lt. Kendrick.
Ens'n Brooks.
3 sergeants.
42 rank and file.

3d—Captain Hamilton.
Lt. Playter.
Ens'n Jarvis.
3 sergeants.
42 rank and file.

Major General VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

LEWISTON, Sept. 6, 1812.

SIR,—General Gray yesterday apprised me of his intention to visit his family for a few weeks. I avail myself of the opportunity to express to Your Excellency my approbation of his conduct. He has executed my orders with promptitude and ability. The Genl. is desirous of serving the country if he could obtain a commission in the army. As I have no interest at the palace, I refer him to Your Excellency.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., p. 123, New York State Library.)

Brigadier-General Wm. Wadsworth to Governor Tompkins.

CAMP AT LEWISTON, 6th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—General Gray having determined on a visit to his family, sets off to-morrow. I would refer you to him for the state of affairs on this frontier. He at my request has built a battery on the mountain south of this village, which has met my entire approbation, and has expressed a desire of further serving our country if he could obtain a commission, to which I beg leave to refer him to Your Excellency, and would express my satisfaction of his readiness and with the promptitude which he has at all times executed my commands since his arrival on this frontier.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., p. 124, New York State Library.)

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 6 Sept., 1812.

DEAR SIR,—

. . . . . .

Our situation is becoming daily more and more *interesting*, to say the least of it. I do not know that I ought yet to call it *critical*, though I know that some think it so. What may be the views of the enemy we know not; they are flushed with victory and concentrating their forces very fast against us. The armistice will be terminated by our notice at noon on the 8th inst. To sum all up in one, I should say that from present appearances we must either fight or run, or both, in a few days. This camp, which is within half-point blank shot of the enemy, we shall quit to-morrow morning; the order is given to strike tents at reveille. We shall not quit the neighborhood, but seek a safer place. Things look rather squally all around just at present, but it may clear off again. There are some pretty strong reasons to believe that Brock is preparing to *Hull* us. I don't know but he may, but Albany blood runs pretty steady yet. We have removed most of our stores from Fort Niagara, and are throwing up a battery on this side, in which we mean to place four eighteen-pounders.

The enemy are extending their works at Fort George, and I understand as the light increases that our soldiers discover some new works began last night opposite to us here.

My General is well, firm, brave and prudent. Solomon [Van Rensselaer] would fight all the while if he could get chances, and I rather expect he will soon get enough of it. Col. Fenwick with

the cannon and stores have arrived safe. We worked John Bull in the little armistice treaty and got more than they expected.

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 228-9.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 6th Sept., 1812.

Lieut.-Col. George Fleming, commanding Fort Oswego, having assigned Walter Cotton as surgeon of Major Charles Moseley's battalion of riflemen, the Major General confirms that assignment and orders that Doctor Cotton do duty accordingly in that corps until further orders.

Major General Hall will please to take command of Lieut. Col. Swift's regiment and the detachment of troops ordered out by Brigadier-General Hopkins and make such disposition of this force as the security of the frontiers may require, and will make weekly reports to Major General VanRensselaer.

Lieut.-Col. Bloom will make morning reports of the regiment under his command to Major General VanRensselaer, and will cause Mr. Rolph, the prisoner, to be delivered to Major General Hall at Black Rock.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, September 7th, 1812.

SIR,—On my arrival here yesterday morning, I found that intimation had been received by Major General Sheaffe to renew hostilities at noon to-morrow. During the cessation of hostilities, vast supplies have been received by the enemy. His field artillery is numerous, and I have reason to believe his heavy ordnance has been considerably increased. He is now busy erecting batteries in front of Fort George, and everything indicates an intention of commencing active operations. Reinforcements of troops of every description have evidently arrived.

I have written to Amherstburg for such troops as [Colonel Procter] conceived the state of affairs in that quarter enabled him to part with. Colonel Vincent has likewise been written to on the same subject. The prodigious quantity of pork and flour which have been observed landing on the opposite shore from a number of

vessels and large boats, which have entered the river during the armistice, are sufficient to supply the wants for a long period of a considerable force.

I expect an attack almost immediately. The enemy will either turn my left flank, which he may easily accomplish during a calm night, or attempt to force his way across under cover of his artillery. We stand greatly in need of officers, men, and heavy ordnance. Captain Holcroft has been indefatigable and has done everything in the power of an individual, but on such an extended line, assistance is necessary.

I look every day for the arrival of five 24-pounders from Detroit, and other artillery and stores which are not required there, besides two thousand muskets.

We have now three hundred Indians on the ground, and two hundred more are expected to-morrow. They appear ashamed of themselves and promise to wipe away the disgrace into which they have fallen by their late conduct. They may serve to intimidate, otherwise I expect no essential service from this degenerate race.

Should Your Excellency be in a situation to send reinforcements to the Upper Country, the whole of the force at present at Kingston might be directed to proceed hither. One thousand additional regulars are necessary. A force of that description ought to be stationed at Pelham to act as exigencies might require. At present, the whole of my force being necessary for the defence of the banks of the river, no part can look for support.

If I can continue to maintain my position six weeks longer, the campaign will have terminated in a manner little expected in the States. But I stand in want of more artillerymen and a thousand regulars. I have thus given Your Excellency a hasty sketch of my situation, and this I can aver, that no exertions shall be wanting to do justice to the important command with which I am entrusted. Captain Fulton leaves this by the first safe conveyance.

. . . . . .

It is said that Fort Niagara is to be evacuated.

(Canadian Archives: c. 677, p. 64.)

Major General Dearborn to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Sept. 7th, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Suggests that he (Tompkins) should take the field in person with as large a force as he could speedily assemble and march to the northwestern frontier of the State and inspire fresh vigor into

the troops in service, while he hopes the movements towards Montreal will draw some troops from Upper Canada, or that an opportunity may be afforded of striking at their outposts between Lake Champlain and that city.

(MSS. in Third Auditor's Office, Washington, D. C.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 8th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—I have this day received your two letters of the 1st instant, and have made the communication you requested to the contractor.

No occurrence of importance has taken place since I wrote you on the 5th by your express. I have yesterday removed my camp to the Ridge Road, as I proposed. The battery near Fort Niagara is fast progressing, also the cutting of the back road mentioned in my last letter. *The enemy appear to be very active*, but whether their preparations are for offensive or defensive operations is impossible for me to determine.

The night before last two men came over from Canada, but the information they give us is of very little consequence; indeed the character of the men would not give much weight to anything they say. They state that Gen. Brock had returned from York to Fort George—that 1,500 militia were ordered for Fort George yesterday —some troops have passed up this day through Queenston. Not knowing what the termination of the armistice might produce, I have taken every precaution in my power to meet any attempt the enemy might make. But it is now five o'clock and I neither see nor hear of any movements. General Wadsworth and Col. VanRensselaer have been the whole day at Niagara. Should they return before the mail closes and have anything of importance to communicate, I shall add it in postscript.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 45.)

John Lovett to Abraham VanVechten.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 8, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—Colonel VanRensselaer has been with General Wadsworth the whole day, and I have been on the jump from dawn of day to this 5 p. m. Brock has returned from York to Fort George, and the enemy are certainly very active, but whether they contemplate defensive or offensive measures it is impossible to say. It would seem that in our situation we might with facility obtain

information of the enemy's force and movements. Not so. Not a soul will risk his neck from this side among them, and those who come over are such scamps no trust can be put in them. We have moved our camp from the river to the Ridge Road. In short, the enemy, having put Hull out of the way, have it in their power to turn their whole force against us. Our poor fellows are patient, patriotic and exceedingly attached to their General. They swear he can't be bribed, and to tell you the real truth, this confidence is all that saves us from every sort of disgrace. We are calm, self-collected, and determined to act as near right as we can. But God only knows how we shall come out. A great force is coming on, I understand, but no pay, no shoes, no anything.

The General has gone to have a talk with the Tuscarora tribe this afternoon. The armistice terminated at 12 o'clock, and no movement is made. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 229.)

Lieut.-Col. Fenwick to Major General VanRensselaer.

(Received Sept. 8th, 1812.)

SIR,—I am induced to believe from every observation I have vigilantly made that the enemy is prepared and ready for an attack. They are so with shipping and with boats, which to-day brought them a reinforcement of troops and stores. Our patrols are very lax in their duty. The work erecting cannot be finished *in time* without additional strength. When finished it is not secure without being strongly covered in rear, for we have nothing to prevent their landing, and they can in that case carry the work. The regular force should be concentrated and organized. Our stores should be removed. They are not in safety, for if they throw over two hundred men they can carry the fort. This I beg your consideration to, as your strength is six miles off and four hours time. I have no means of express at my command.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 46.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 9th Sept., 1812.

Lieut.-Col. Bloom will march immediately to the neighborhood of Niagara Falls and relieve the guards of the detachment of United States troops under the command of Major Mullany by his regi-

ment. The commanding officer of this detachment, after being relieved by Lieut.-Col. Bloom, will march with the troops under his command without delay and join Lieut.-Col. Fenwick, and is to be subject to his orders.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 8th September, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bloom, from Cayuga County, arrived on the frontier last week with the 19th Regiment of detached militia, about 500 strong, belonging to Brigadier-General Daniel Miller's brigade.

We understand that the rifle battalion under command of Major Moseley, from Onondaga, is soon expected at Lewiston.

Last week a full company of light horsemen passed through this village, destined to join the army at Lewiston.

We are happy to have it in our power to state that the report of Dr. Asa Coltrin having accepted a surgeon's berth in the British army is without foundation.

Governor Tompkins to Major General VanRensselaer.

ALBANY, September 9th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Your various communications have come to hand, the two last while I was in New York. My return from that place was expedited by the news of Hull's discomfiture. Previously to my leaving this place for New York, I had ordered out two regiments in addition to Bloom's to reinforce you, but their march has been retarded by circumstances over which I had no control. They are now directed to move on with the utmost expedition. Until reinforcements arrive, I am sensible of the delicacy of your situation. Your proceedings hitherto in concentrating in one place and disciplining a large body of your troops, changing your encampments, your disposition of the despatch relative to the termination of the armistice, and every other official act has met my entire approbation and will receive that of your fellow citizens generally. I pray God you may be able to maintain your post until reinforcements shall arrive.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 53.

Governor Tompkins to Major General VanRensselaer.

ALBANY, September 9th, 1812.

SIR,—The Government has at length awakened to its duty with respect to the command of the lakes. The most unbounded authority has been given to Captain Chauncey for that purpose, and he will be with you soon. Forty ship carpenters came up with me in the last steamboat and have gone westward. Marines and seamen will be on as soon as vessels and gunboats are ready.

A large supply of ordnance of every description is now on its way from New York. The orders embrace Erie as well as Ontario. I despatched an express for Captain Chauncey on that subject from New York on Friday evening to Captain Woolsey. The despatches have returned this morning and gone down by express. Should you, my dear General, be able to maintain your position a short time, these arrangements for the lakes and the reinforcements will place you in a situation of defiance. To enable you so to do more effectually the militia of every description in the counties above mentioned are placed at your disposal, and you may instantly call upon all or any portion of them under the Act of 1795 (enclosed), or under the militia law of this State, and I will approve, confirm and maintain your proceedings. The Quartermaster-General of the State is ordered by me into regular service, and is now in every respect subject to your directions. I have remitted him ten thousand dollars by Major Noon.

You have probably felt hurt at the unfrequency of my answers to your communications, but when I inform you that I have no private secretary here, that the Adjutant-General of the State is in declining health, and that none of my staff or aids are in service or with me, though the latter have volunteered their services without pay and have been with me occasionally at their own expense, and when I inform you further that the drudgery of attending to a variety of details in rendezvousing, supply, equipage and paying troops, &c., devolves upon me or must remain unattended to, I trust you will extend great charity to my apparent inattention to your communications.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 53.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, Sept. 9, 1812.

Several pieces of ordnance, &c., will leave this for Utica on Thursday with a detachment of United States Horse Artillery. They will arrive at Utica about Tuesday next. The ordnance is to

go from thence to Sackett's Harbor, but the detachment will proceed to Niagara. General Dearborn has made a requisition for me to have a detachment of Artillery or Horse Artillery ready at Utica to escort the ordnance to Sackett's Harbor. Your company will rendezvous for that purpose on Monday next and proceed to Utica, where they will remain till the cannon shall arrive and then immediately start with them for Sackett's Harbor and press on with the greatest diligence. There will be a travelling forge for heating shot to fire at shipping from the fort at the harbor.

The contractor at Utica will supply rations, and you will consult Capt. Gibson as to the mode of supplying forage and other articles on your journey. Captain Gibson is an experienced officer of the United States Horse Artillery.

The services of your company are required under and pursuant to the Act of Congress passed 28th February, 1795, of which I send you a copy.

Until your arrival at Utica you will have your men supplied with provisions and forage as cheap as possible, after which the contractor at Utica will supply provisions and your own officer will prepare forage. You may take the field-pieces and other articles attached to your company, or such part as you think proper, along with you. Mr. Tracy will hand you one hundred dollars to defray the incidental expenses of rendezvousing, for which you are to account to me with vouchers as soon as possible.

The alarm and anxiety on the frontiers arising from the disasters at Detroit compel me to require the services of the uniformed volunteer companies immediately, and I trust the protection of women and children, who may but for their assistance be the victims of savage barbarity, will stimulate the patriotism and awaken the fraternal feelings of every man and induce a free, eager and unanimous compliance with this requisition.

To Capt. Asa B. Sizer.

P. S.—On your arrival at Sackett's Harbor you will report yourself to Genl. Jacob Brown or General Dodge, whichever may command there, and obey the orders of the one so commanding.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Sept. 10th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 7th by the returning express reached us at 8 o'clock last evening. The safe arrival of Lieut.-Col. Fenwick with the troops, cannon and other stores relieved me from some

anxiety. *I am satisfied that the abandonment of the old fort is a prudent measure*, and I have the fullest confidence that whatever relates to your actual command will be performed in the manner that the good of the service and the best interest of the country require.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 55.)

Colonel Baynes to Major General Brock.

MONTREAL, September 10, 1812.

SIR,—Sir George writes to you so fully upon the several subjects to which your letters refer that I have little left to communicate to you. Major Heathcote leaves this to-day with all the small description of ordnance stores intended for Amherstburg, but we have detained the 12-pounders and shot; as you have helped yourself so amply at Detroit it is imagined you do not now want them. I enclose a letter from Captain Roberts, who was, I suppose, induced to address himself direct to headquarters by an opportunity of doing so offering itself at the moment. The northwest gentlemen are very urgent in recommending a reinforcement in that quarter, but Sir George has told them that their representations must be addressed to you, who will act as you deem proper.

Your friend, Mr. Isaac Todd, is arrived and looking much better for his trip. He was suffered to pass by Albany and the lake. He tells me that Mr. Macdonnell is confirmed as Attorney-General, and that the governor's salary is increased £1,000 a year. I sincerely trust that it will soon be your own. Sir George has in his official despatches, after paying that tribute of praise so justly your due, stated as his confirmed opinion that the salvation of the Upper Province has in a very great measure arisen from the civil and military authority being combined in able hands. The prisoners with their general arrived here on Sunday night. As they had not halted since they left Kingston and were in a very dirty state, we kept them here on Monday, and they yesterday proceeded to William Henry, on their way to Quebec. The officers are to be on parole in Charlesbourg and the men confined on board two transports in the river. Sir George has permitted most of the officers who have families with them to return on their parole; four of them are proposed to be exchanged for the officers of the Royal Scots taken by the *Essex* frigate. Sir George has also consented to allow General Hull to return upon his parole. He is loud in his complaints against the Government at Washington, and the General thinks that his voice in the universal cry may be attended with

beneficial effects, and has allowed him to return and enter the lists. General Hull appears to possess less feeling and sense of shame than any man in his situation could be supposed to do. He seems to be perfectly satisfied with himself, is lavish of censure upon his government, but appears to think that the most scrupulous cannot attach the slightest blame to his own immediate conduct at Detroit. The grounds upon which he rests his defence are not, I fancy, well founded, for he told us that he had not gunpowder at Detroit for the service of one day. Sir George has since shown him the return of the large supply found in the fort; it did not create a blush, but he made no reply. He professes great surprise and admiration at the zeal and military preparation he has everywhere witnessed; that it was entirely unlooked for, and that he has no doubt that his friend, General Dearborn, will share his fate if he has the imprudence to follow his example. Hull seems cunning and unprincipled. How much reliance is to be placed on his professions time will shew.

General Dearborn has certainly left Albany for Skeensborough, at the head of the lake, where great preparations have been making in collecting boats and sending the regulars from Greenbush to the stations in our vicinity. Major Cotton, with about 300 men, half of the King's Regiment, is stationed at Isle Aux Noix, and two gunboats have been carried into the river, as the enemy's preparations seem to indicate that quarter as their point of attack. Colonel Murray commands at St. John's, and will give them a warm reception. I do not feel a doubt of Jonathan's complete discomfiture and disgrace if he make the attempt. We could, I fancy, bring as many men as he will be able to persuade into the field and of very superior stuff, for our militia have really improved beyond all expectation in discipline and with it in spirit and confidence. This town would turn out 2,000 volunteer militia, a great proportion of whom are clothed and very tolerably drilled. We have destroyed all the roads of communication in our front, leaving open the water route only, and these woody positions will be shortly occupied by the Indians of this neighborhood and a corps of volunteer *voyageur* Canadians. The enemy's preparations, however, may be a feint to cover some plans in agitation against your Province. . . .

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(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 304-6.)

Colonel Procter to Major General Brock.

DETROIT, September 10, 1812.

SIR,—I have just received your letter from Kingston of the 4th instant, and shall act accordingly. Enclosed I send a return of

the ordnance and ordnance stores sent in the *Queen Charlotte*; no shot were sent, because, as I understand, there is already a quantity of each calibre at Fort George. The remainder of the prisoners of war, excepting some sick and wounded, were also sent on board the *Charlotte* with a guard of two subaltern officers and forty men of the 41st Regiment, whom I cannot afford to part with. I had ordered the deserters on board, but have had the dissatisfaction to find that they have not been sent. Annexed is also a list of provisions and stores captured on the 16th ultimo. I assented in the absence of Lieut.-Colonel Nichol for a short time on the urgency of his private affairs and the probability of the armistice continuing. Major Givins has been of great assistance to me in his department. I regret his going, but I could not detain him longer than there was a probability of my returning soon to Fort George. As you directed, a sergeant of the 41st Regiment has been appointed to act as deputy barrackmaster at this place. I shall be much gratified if it should be confirmed. I found on my arrival here that the boats and the *engagés* of the South West Company had been detained and employed in the service. They have been under the direction of Lieutenant Bender, 41st Regiment, and have been of the greatest use. They have been provisioned, and I suppose are entitled to pay as militia. I am sending a detachment of the 41st Regiment and militia with 3-pounders to aid the Indians against Fort Wayne. It shall be conducted with every prudence and expedition. The *Detroit* will sail in a few days for Fort Erie. Judge Campbell goes in her. I have required 100 more of the militia, making them 400, besides the 30 mounted who are to keep up the communication with the Moravian Town. 150 of the Mackina Indians are arrived. They met the express sixty miles on this side of Mackina. They are just in time for Fort Wayne. The *Hunter* shall sail without delay.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 307-8.)

Lieut.-Col. Fenwick to Major General VanRensselaer.

FORT NIAGARA, Sept. 10th, 1812.

SIR,—Fatigued and harassed as the troops have been, I really do not think our situation a safe one. I submit to your judgment whether the troops should not be concentrated; as they are all young and undisciplined, they may be cut up in detail. The defence of this place is precarious, outside of the storehouse. I apprehend nothing but surprise. We should be, then, prepared to act in force and in any given point. The contractor is very inat-

tentive. Our men are extremely dissatisfied. The enemy has erected another battery. I ordered the light artillery down. They called in their fatigue parties and prepared for attack—the Indians moving in every direction. The movement puzzles them, and I am pleased at giving them so much trouble. I hope I shall have the honor of a visit from you to-morrow.

I salute you, General, with consideration and respect.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 47.)

Major General VanRensslaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 10th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—When I had the honor of receiving your communication of the 1st inst., acquainting me of the dispositions you are making to reinforce me upon this frontier with men, cannon, musketry, stores, &c., my attention was immediately arrested by the proposition of sending them from Oswego to Niagara or, indeed, any part of that distance, by water. It will be recollected that the passage of Lieut.-Col. Fenwick with boats was rendered safe under a clause of the agreement for the observance of the armistice. But upon the receipt of your letter my own opinion was against risking anything hereafter along that shore by water, but I wished further information on the subject before I should advise you. The opinions of others whom I have advised with on this subject, and who are competent judges, fully accord with my own, that it would be very hazardous for the batteaux to attempt coming from Oswego to Niagara in the very face of our active enemy having command of the water. The batteaux might and probably would have some days of head wind, and in such a case it would be next to impossible that they should escape the observation of the enemy, and when once discovered they would undoubtedly be attacked in some place where the landing could be effected with most difficulty. My opinion is further strengthened by some late movements of the enemy. The day after the termination of the armistice the *Royal George* and another armed vessel chased some vessels returning from Niagara to Oswego into the Genesee River and fired a few shot. This has excited an alarm among the inhabitants, and, according to the custom prevailing on the whole frontier, they have sent a deputation to me praying protection. I have ordered them some ammunition; I can do no more. I am so entirely convinced that the cargoes of the batteaux will be in danger on the passage from Oswego to Niagara that I shall send an express to Three River Point to have the batteaux come up to Cayuga Bridge and there land

their cargoes, to be transported by land to this place. I shall bestow further consideration on this subject.*

Believing that the best use I can make of the old mess-house at Niagara is to convert it into a battery, I have ordered the roof to be taken off, the walls above the upper floor to be strengthened by embankments of earth on the inner side, and two twelve-pounders and one howitzer mounted in that battery. It is high and may perhaps avail us something. I expect it will be prepared in this manner in a day or two. I was yesterday there and the roof was nearly taken down.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 47.)

Captain J. Whistler to Gen. VanRensselaer.

PRESQUE ISLE, 11th Sept., 1812.

DEAR GENERAL,—

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . This moment I have seen a letter from Genl. Wadsworth of the State of Ohio to Genl. Keler of this post, in which he mentioned the capture of Fort Dearborn at Chigkaga and nearly all the garrison put to the sword, and the enemy are now erecting a garrison at the rapids of the Miamy, and a large force of Indians are on their way against Fort Wayne and Vincennes in great expectation of success.

The enemy have left four of the 24-pounders at Malden; the other five of the 24-pounders they have shipped to Fort George. This is all the news I have at present to communicate; the latter, I expect, you ought to be made acquainted with. I think from the large body of Indians which have gone against Fort Wayne you have nothing to fear as to Indians. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 230-1.)

Colonel S. VanRensselaer to Major General Morgan Lewis.

HEADQUARTERS, Sept. 11, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—To you I am fully persuaded I can write with confidence on the state of affairs in this quarter, and if you think the interest of the service will be promoted by a disclosure of my name, you are at liberty to make any use of it you please, what-

* Perhaps some precautions may be adopted to get round the batteaux to the Eighteen-Mile Creek, or to some position on the lake shore, from whence they may be drawn overland to this place.

ever inconvenience it may put me to, for I shall state facts and those only.

Since the surrender of General Hull it has been the study of John C. Spencer, Col. Brooks, Qr.-Mr.-General Porter and several others, to cause confusion and distrust among the troops on this frontier to answer party purposes against the commander. They have so far succeeded in the camp and in the country, that in the former it is only whispered, but in the latter it is openly said, that General VanRensselaer is a traitor to his country, and the surrender of his army when it crosses the river is the price of his infamy. Honest and honorable men must regret this depravity in human nature. Those scoundrels know better, and you and I know that a more honest man does not exist, and one who has the interest of the country more at heart. But, with all his amiable qualities, his usefulness here in my opinion is destroyed by this unjust and unwarrantable jealousy. He cannot enforce that subordination which is so necessary to the safety and glory of the troops he commands. If Gen. Armstrong or any other man of the same politics with the government did command here, this difficulty would be removed. There is a field of glory in view for any man of ambition, which Gen. V. R., as well as myself, would regret to forego if necessity did not compel us; it would be well if Gen. Dearborn could with propriety remove him to New York or some other place where his position may be equal to his sacrifices in private life. We are encamped at this place with two regiments of militia to guard the most important pass on the river; Col. Fenwick with the regular troops in and about Fort Niagara. Col. Bloom's lately come on at Niagara Falls, and Col. Swift's at Buffalo.

The whole effective force of militia, including officers, you will find by the within returns amounts to 1,633 fit for duty. We are in want of almost everything. Our Quartermaster, Peter B. Porter, is speculating and attending to mischief and his private affairs. He speaks in very disrespectful terms of Mr. Madison, and tries to impress on the minds of the people the necessity of a change of men. But, notwithstanding these discouraging prospects, we shall do what men under these circumstances can. A strong battery has been thrown up a mile above Fort Niagara and immediately opposite Fort George, in which the four heavy cannon have been placed, and, contrary to the opinion of Col. Fenwick when he first came on, we will attempt to maintain the fort, which will be all important to our future operations. The roof has been taken from a large stone house, and on the third floor two twelve-pounders and a howitzer placed. This battery commands Fort George and four batteries in the vicinity, and if a parapet of earth well rammed on

the inside of the two and-a-half feet stone wall was thrown up it might bid defiance to the enemy, but unfortunately Col. Fenwick and Capt. Leonard are too much addicted to liquor to attend to this duty as they should, and if they were removed from this command it would give rise to much greater dissensions. Besides, we have no one as fit for this all important service as Col. Fenwick, if he was at all times himself. Last Tuesday at 12 o'clock the armistice ceased, on which we supposed the enemy would open their batteries of at least fifty pieces on our lines. Gen. VanRensselaer continued here in order to move the troops to any point that might be attacked, while I went to the garrison below. I found on my arrival all in confusion. I immediately ordered a strong detachment to clear a battery in the stone house, while others were dismounting the two twelves and a howitzer and getting them on the platform, to the command of which Capt. Leonard's company was assigned. The two block-houses, in each of which are six-pounders, Capt. McKeon's company was to defend. All this was accomplished by twelve. At that hour our works, as well as the British, were manned, the matches burning, and I expected every moment to see the rafters of the old mess-house knocked about my head, and I was disappointed, and we have ever since been in peace, but preparing with little trouble to make it as strong as any work can be and ready for action. I enclose the last Buffalo paper.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 231-2.)

Governor Tompkins to Captain Peter Magher.

ALBANY, Sept. 11, 1812.

I was absent from this place when your letter of the 31st ultimo came to hand.

In compliance with your request, I have addressed a letter to Col. Stranahan, desiring him to attach the eight men drafted from the light infantry company under your command to your company whenever the rest of your company shall come up with his regiment.

There is an indispensable necessity for ordering out a number of independent corps under and pursuant to the Act of Congress passed 20th February, 1795, of which a copy is enclosed for your information. You will therefore assemble the rest of your company and join Col. Stranahan's regiment as soon as possible. Should his regiment have left Litchfield before you can join them, you will follow them with as rapid marches as possible. The bearer takes out tents, camp kettles and knapsacks for your company. They must find their own blankets and canteens; also musket,

cartridge box, &c. Those who may be deficient in muskets will be supplied at Canandaigua or on their arrival at Niagara. The propriety of reinforcing General VanRensselaer without delay compels me to urge upon you the most vigilant and prompt attention to the execution of this order. The Brigade-Quartermaster Packard will pay the expense of transportation if you should be able to rendezvous and march with the regiment: but if the regiment should have marched before your company can rendezvous, the bearer is directed to return to Cherry Valley and supply you with some cash to defray the contingent expenses of your march on the road.

To Captain Peter Magher.

(Tompkins' Papers, New York State Library.)

N. B. Boileau to Major General Dearborn.

HARRISBURG, September 11, 1812.

SIR,—Yours of the 2d instant has been duly received by the Governor. I have the honor to inform you that yours of the 13th ult. was received by him at Selin's Grove the 21st. He immediately repaired to the seat of government at this place, and on the 25th issued general orders for twenty-four hundred volunteers to rendezvous at Meadville on the 25th day of the present month, and from thence to march with all possible despatch to Buffalo. On the 26th ult. a letter, enclosing general orders, was directed to you at Greenbush and put in the mail at this place. On the 5th instant the Governor issued general orders, agreeably to the request of the Secretary at War, for two thousand two hundred more of the militia of this State to rendezvous at Pittsburg on the 2d of October, and from thence to join the troops assembling in the State. A letter also, enclosing the last mentioned orders, was put in the mail at this place, directed to you at Greenbush. That the Governor's letter of the 26th ult. has not reached you is a matter of surprise and regret. The detachment assembling at Meadville will proceed on to Buffalo, unless otherwise directed by you. You will therefore forward to the commanding officer of that detachment such orders as you may deem expedient. It will be commanded by a Brigadier-General, but as he was to be elected by the volunteers comprising the detachment, I cannot yet give you his name.

The Adjutant-General, William Reed, Esq., will attend, and is gone to Meadville to take command until the detachment is organized. Any instructions enclosed to him will be punctually attended to. You will therefore please to communicate with him as early as possible.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., pp. 610-11.)

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

(No. 8.)

MONTREAL, 12th Sept., 1812.

MY LORD,—I have been honored with Your Lordship's despatch of the 4th of July. The despatches I have had the honor of addressing to Your Lordship and to Lord Liverpool since the declaration of war by the Congress of the United States against Great Britain will have afforded sufficient evidence to His Majesty's Government that I could not, consistent with my duty to my king and country, suspend the preparations for defence which I had been induced to make in consequence of the precarious state of the relations between Great Britain and America.

The convincing proof which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has given of his desire to conciliate the government and people of the United States by his declaration of the 23d of June, is not deemed sufficient by the President for the restoration of tranquillity to the Provinces, and Your Lordship will hear with surprise that every exertion is making by that Government for the subjugation of the Canadas that they may, if successful, be enabled in proud and haughty terms to commence their negotiations for a peace.

Notwithstanding the complete and disgraceful failure of the enemy in their attack upon the western frontiers of Upper Canada, which I have already had the honor of detailing to Your Lordship in my former despatches, I learn by a despatch from M. Genl. Brock, dated at Fort George the 7th inst., that they were assembling in great strength in front of our positions on the Niagara frontier, and that he has every reason to believe from the great reinforcements they had recently received in troops, artillery and stores that they meditate an immediate invasion of the Province in that quarter. Although I have been induced to withdraw from Lower Canada a considerable body of troops for the purpose of enabling Genl. Brock to meet the threatened attacks in the Upper Province, he still urges most strongly for fresh reinforcements to oppose the great force which the enemy are preparing to bring against him, but as the preparations and movements they are making towards the borders of this Province in the neighborhood of Montreal are strongly indicative of their intention and desire to penetrate in that direction, I have not been able in the present weak state of the regular force in this Province to spare one man from its defence. The necessity therefore of strengthening me by a further reinforcement of troops, to be employed both in Upper and Lower Canada, must be obvious to Your Lordship, nor will it, I trust, be disregarded, if the greater interests of the country will admit of it. The

disposition of the people in both Provinces, I am disposed to believe, is good, and, provided they can be supported, I think they can be depended upon, but I fear not much reliance can be placed upon them in the hour of adversity.

I am sorry to say the stores and accoutrements are not yet arrived, and that the want of clothing for the Glengarry Fencibles is a very serious inconvenience to His Majesty's service. I now humbly hope the precautionary measures I have considered it my indispensable duty to pursue, and which have hitherto enabled me to check the designs of the Government of the United States, will be favorably represented by Your Lordship for His Royal Highness's gracious approbation.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 247.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, September 13, 1812.

SIR,—The movements of the enemy just before the expiration of the armistice indicated an intention of commencing active operations, but now everything tends to different measures.

The intelligence lately received and upon which I can safely rely, represents the disposition of the troops on the opposite shore as very licentious and anxious for deserting a service in which they are not only badly fed but remain without pay. The government paper is not received in common intercourse, consequently is inapplicable to the payment of the troops.

Great sickness prevails along the whole line. The officers of the 49th Regt., quartered opposite Black Rock, have observed during the last week one and two military funerals of a day. Nothing can confirm the above statement more strongly than the desertion of seven men from the 6th United States Regiment, six of whom, however, perished in the attempt to cross the river, and of two at noon this day, one of whom effected his purpose, but the other, alarmed at the heavy fire of the guard, returned and was instantly seized. They, of course, complain of bad usage, bad and scanty food and a total want of pay. The two companies to which these men belong arrived during the cessation of hostilities from Bushy Park. They were sixty rank and file each, out of which thirty, independently of those lost since yesterday, have deserted. Many are sick, and almost all determined to seize the first opportunity to follow their example. Nothing can be more wretched than the state of discipline existing among the troops. The militia, they pretend, are better fed and otherwise better treated, which occasions

great jealousy. As both private accounts and those of deserters agree as to the main facts, there can be no doubts of much dissatisfaction prevailing among the troops. A great deal could be effected against such a body at this moment, but keeping in view Your Excellency's instructions and aware of the policy of permitting such a force to dwindle away by its own inefficient means, I do not contemplate any immediate attack. The enemy has taken down the roof of the large stone house in Fort Niagara, upon which he has placed two brass twelve-pounders. He has likewise constructed a battery precisely in front of our fort. I am daily in expectation of the arrival of the *Queen Charlotte* from Detroit, which will give us such a superiority in artillery as will soon silence anything that he can bring against the fort.

P. S.—The enclosed is the last communication received from Amherstburg.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
13th September, 1812.

Militia General Orders.

His Honor Major General Brock has been pleased to appoint Alexander Bryson, gentleman, to be second lieutenant in Captain Powell's company, 1st Lincoln artillery. Commission dated 13th September, 1812.

By order.

J. MACDONALD,
Lt.-Col., Militia, P. A. D. C.

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, GREEN BUSH, September 13, 1812.

Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth will proceed to Niagara and take the command of the brigade composed of the fifth, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and twentieth regiments as they arrive at or near Niagara, and he will be respected and obeyed accordingly. On his arrival at Niagara, or in the vicinity of Major General Van-Rensselaer's headquarters, he will report himself to that officer.

By order of Major General Dearborn.

E. BEEBE, Acting Adjutant-General.

From Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

MONTREAL, September 14, 1812.

SIR,—Captain Fulton arrived on the 11th instant with your letter of the 7th. The intelligence you have communicated by it convinces me of the necessity of the evacuation of Fort Detroit, unless the operations of the enemy bear a character less indicative of determined hostile measures against your line in their front than they did when you last reported to me. You will therefore be pleased, subject to the discretion I have given you under the circumstances to which I have alluded, to take immediate steps for evacuating that post together with the territory of Michigan. By this measure you will be enabled to withdraw a greater number of the troops from Amherstburg instead of taking them from Colonel Vincent, whose regular force ought not on any account to be diminished.

I have already afforded you reinforcements to the full extent of my ability. You must not therefore expect a further supply of men from hence until I shall receive from England a considerable increase to the present regular force in this Province; the posture of affairs, particularly on this frontier, requires every soldier who is in the country.

In my last despatch from Lord Bathurst, dated the 4th of July, he tells me, "that His Majesty's Government trusts I will be enabled to suspend, with perfect safety, all extraordinary preparations for defence which I may have been induced to make in consequence of the precarious state of the relations between this country and the United States, and that as every specific requisition for warlike stores and accoutrements which had been received from me had been complied with, with the exception of the clothing of the corps proposed to be raised from the Glengarry Emigrants, he had not thought it necessary to direct the preparation of any further supplies." This will afford you a strong proof of the infatuation of His Majesty's ministers upon the subject of American affairs, and they shew how entirely I have been left to my own resources in the event which has taken place.

Judging from what you have already effected in Upper Canada, I do not doubt but that with your present means of defence you will be able to maintain your position at Fort George, and that the enemy will be again foiled in any further attempts they may make to invade the Province.

I leave to your discretion to decide on the necessity of sending a reinforcement to Michilimackinac.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 308-9.)

General Orders.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 14th Sept., 1812.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments in the army serving in British North America :—

41ST FOOT.

Lieutenant Charles Lane, from the Hereford militia, to be ensign without purchase.—16th June.

Lieutenant James Perrin, from the Limerick County militia, to be ditto.—30th June.

Lieutenant James Field, from the 1st Somerset militia, to be ditto.—23d June.

ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND FENCIBLES.

Captain Charles Blankowitz, from half-pay of the Royal Staff Corps, to be captain of a company, vice Nairne, who exchanges.—13th June.

STAFF.

Major John Harvey of the 6th Garrison Battn., to be Deputy-Adjt.-General in Canada, with the rank of Lt.-Col. in the army, vice Ellis, appointed to the 6th Dragoons.—30th June.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Lieutenant Sanderson, 41st Regt., from 4th May to 30th June.
Ensign Biddulph, do., 12th to 1st August.

EDWARD BAYNES.

Colonel Solomon VanRensselaer to General Peter B. Porter.

LEWISTON, 10 o'clock a. m., Sept. 14th, 1812.

SIR,—In consequence of your message to me, several interviews were had between our friends. It was at length agreed between them that they should meet at the first house above the Tonawanto bridge, and proceed from thence to Grand Island to select a spot for our meeting. On their arrival at that place on Saturday propositions to postpone the meeting were made on the part of your friend, which could not be acceded to by mine without consulting me. With that view they were to meet this morning at 8 o'clock at the Falls of Niagara. At this place my friend punctually attended, and now reports that neither your friend nor any apology appeared.

This very extraordinary conduct on your part, together with

the fact of your disclosing the affair in violation of the most solemn pledge of secrecy, and which has been most religiously adhered to on my part and that of my friend, to two or three persons besides your friend, and the information I have just received that General VanRensselaer was made acquainted with it and in consequence of which he has kept a watchful eye on all my actions, shows conclusively that you have trifled with me, and that it never was your intention to meet me, and I now declare that if you do not make me a suitable apology I shall at the proper time publish you to the world as a *poltroon*, a *coward* and a *scoundrel*.

I am, &c.,

SOL. VANRENSSELAER.

P. B. Porter, Esq., Q. M., G. M. S., N. Y.

(From the *United States Gazette* of 30th January, 1813. File in Philadelphia Library.)

Letter to the Editor of the "Repository," of Canandaigua, N. Y.

MR. BEMIS,—The following interesting information was received from Jasper Parrish, Esqr., interpreter to the Six Nations and sub-agent of Indian affairs. It may be relied on as correct, and you will oblige a subscriber by publishing it in your paper:—

There was lately held at Buffalo a general council of Indians, consisting of the Six Nations and the Stockbridge and Delaware tribes. The council was very numerous and attended by a fuller representation of chiefs than any that has been held for many years. The agent for Indian affairs, Mr. Granger, and the sub-agent, Mr. Parrish, were both present. On the 8th inst., the Senecas, the Onondagas near Buffalo, and the Cayugas unanimously offered to take up the hatchet in favor of the United States in the present war. The chiefs who represented the Onondagas, living eastward of this, the Oneidas, the Stockbridge and Delaware Indians, not feeling authorized to pledge their warriors in so important a matter said they would go home and consult them on that subject, but expressed at the same time the most thorough conviction that all their warriors would also tender their services to the United States. The Indians who attended the council said their interests within the United States were too important to be given up without the strongest efforts to defend them, that they had been advising and laboring with the Indians in Canada for six years to induce them to remain at peace without effect, and were extremely urgent that their services should be accepted. Those who volunteered at the council agreed that they would go home so soon as the council fire was extinguished, arm and equip themselves

for battle, and return again to Buffalo in ten days, and as there is no doubt but that the other warriors, whose chiefs were not authorized to pledge them, will adopt the same determination with their brethren, there will probably be within a fortnight at Buffalo between three and four hundred Indian warriors.

It has been uniformly the wish of the government that the Indians should take no part in the war. The Secretary-at-War wrote a letter, which was read and explained in this very council instructing the agent to exert himself to persuade the Indians to remain at peace, but the restless spirit of these sons of nature will not permit them to do so. The chiefs, though they are willing to do whatever they can to further the views of the United States, to whom they feel bound by strong ties, are unable to restrain their warriors. Their young men are clamorous to be employed. Under these circumstances the agent has been instructed to accept their services, to embody and organize them. It is believed by all who are acquainted with the Indian character that in this state of things the inhabitants upon the Niagara frontier will find greater safety than they could do in any other while hostile armies remain in their neighborhood. For if the earnest solicitations of the Indians that we should accept their aid had been denied, they would have been cool, perhaps distrustful towards us, and during this state of things should the British arms obtain any advantages over us, it is not improbable they might be induced to take up arms against us.

Sept. 14, 1812.

(From the *Repository* of Canandaigua, 15th September, 1812. File in the Wood Library, Canandaigua, N. Y.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, September 15th, 1812.

The Quartermaster-General and the contractor will furnish on the order of Doctor Brown, hospital surgeon, the necessary supplies for the sick in camp and the hospital. To Doctor Brown the surgeons of regiments and corps will apply for supplies necessary for the accommodation of the sick under their care, and they are strictly enjoined to attend faithfully to the sick of the regiments and corps to which they are assigned, whether the sick are in camp or hospital.

The Quartermaster-General will furnish a sufficient quantity of straw for the accommodation of the troops in the camp and barracks. He will also furnish forage for the dragoon and other public horses, and cause the horses of Captain Camp's troops of volunteer cavalry to be appraised, as the law directs, without delay.

Lieut.-Col. Fenwick, the Quartermaster-General and the Commissary of military stores on this frontier, will without delay make returns to Major General VanRensselaer of all the public property of every description under their charge.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER,
Aid-de-Camp.

Major General VanRensselaer to Lieut.-Col. Fenwick.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 15th September, 1812.

SIR,—I have this moment received your note of this date. It is a fact too true that many of the arms both here and at the garrison are not fit for use. The armourers are here busily engaged; nevertheless I send you one of them. Please to order the line of sentries extended up the river as far as you deem expedient.

It seems to be impossible to obtain *grain* for our horses. I have this day issued an order to the Quartermaster-General as to forage, and shall make every effort in my power to get a supply. General Brock will undoubtedly make every effort. Let us employ every moment in making the best possible dispositions to receive him should he attempt an attack. As to the salt, the men and teams were left behind for the express purpose of removing it. If the service requires any more men for fatigue, I will send them immediately.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 49.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 15th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—Agreeably to the instructions contained in Your Excellency's letter of the 14th ult., I have endeavored to keep Major General Dearborn fully advised of all my movements and operations since that time, and to my letters transmitted to him I beg leave to refer Your Excellency for particulars. If the little army under my command has not yet achieved anything very brilliant, I endeavor to console myself with the belief that we have not yet suffered any disgrace. My force is yet small, about 1600 militia. Of course the necessary service renders the duty of the troops very severe. They, however, endure it with as much patience as could be expected from men in their situation, many of them destitute of shoes, and indeed such clothing as is necessary for the approaching season, and they are all extremely clamorous for their pay. Some money must be

furnished for the troops in a very short time, or the consequence of omitting it will severely affect the service, and at least render every movement heavy.

Since my first arrival at this frontier, I have found myself much embarrassed with the situation of Fort Niagara. To attempt defending it with the ordnance I found here I considered idle, and after the return of General Brock from Detroit I had great reason to believe that he could command a competent force to carry the garrison should he attack it. But apprehending the very serious consequences which must immediately result from abandoning the fort altogether, I took the precaution of removing the most valuable stores and determined to risk events until Colonel Fenwick should arrive, when I might avail myself of his opinion, at least, and of the ordnance he has with him should it be deemed advisable to attempt holding the garrison. By suspending the notice for the termination of the armistice, Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick arrived safe with the cannon and stores under his charge at the Four-Mile Creek. Fort Niagara became one of the first subjects of deliberation, and it was determined to attempt maintaining it. For this purpose it was deemed expedient to remove the roof from the old stone mess-house and convert the upper story into a battery, to be mounted with two twelve-pounders and one howitzer. I also determined to throw up a strong battery on the bank of the river about a mile above the garrison, nearly opposite the main battery on the Canadian shore, and there mount three 18-pounders. As the enemy can rake the river road from this to the garrison even with musketry, I determined to cut a road for communication from my camp to the garrison in the woods, out of the reach of the enemy's fire. These have been the objects of our fatigue for some days past, and are all of them nearly completed. These operations have produced great activity at Fort George. No sooner were our works commenced, than the enemy began opposing batteries. Their force is certainly very respectable and constantly employed. Whether the enemy will attack Fort Niagara or not, is impossible for me to say. There are some very imperious considerations to urge them to it. Newark is a very considerable village. The enemy have there some good barracks and many accommodations for winter quarters, and [whatever] might be the final result of a bombardment, the enemy must inevitably suffer very considerably. My present opinion is that I had better attempt to maintain the garrison than to risk the consequences of abandoning it.

Liable as I am to an attempt from the enemy at any hour, and my troops worn down by fatigue, I have resorted to a measure which perhaps exceeds the letter of my orders, yet considering that

not only the tranquillity of this frontier, but possibly the safety of my little army may yet be at stake, and having been advised by Major General Dearborn to adopt every measure of precaution against surprise from a strong force which he had reason to believe the enemy are directing against me, I have ordered a detachment of 500 men from Brigadier-General Hopkins's brigade, and some companies of the detachment have actually marched. I wish to receive Your Excellency's early instructions on this subject, as at present I only consider these troops ordered out during your pleasure.

From a source not to be doubted I learn that the enemy are forwarding very large supplies of arms and military stores to Upper Canada. One hundred loaded boats have lately come up the St. Lawrence, also two regiments are on the way to Upper Canada.

When I last had the pleasure of seeing Major General Hall, he expressed to me his wish to learn Your Excellency's pleasure as to his continuance in service, and I beg leave also to express my desire that he should be satisfied as to his future course.

Having been advised by Major General Dearborn that forty batteaux with cargoes for the use of this army were on their way from Schenectady to Niagara by the way of Oswego, I have advised him of the danger to be apprehended in a voyage from Oswego to Niagara, as I am clearly of opinion, from the best information, that that passage ought not to be attempted by the boats with their cargoes, and fearing that my despatch might not reach General Dearborn in season for him to act, I have by express ordered the commanding officer of the boats to stop at the Three River Point, come up to the Cayuga bridge and land the cargoes and then to go down to Oswego, adopt every precaution, and attempt to get the boats around to the Eighteen-Mile Creek. The Quartermaster has deputed a person to receive the cargoes at Cayuga, and procure the necessary transport to Black Rock.

The alarm which lately took place in the County of Ontario by the enemy's ships chasing some vessels into the mouth of the Genesee River, has induced Judge Atwater to make a communication to me of a very unpleasant nature. After stating the great zeal with which the militia turned out, he says, "but, sir, I lament when I tell you that neither arms nor ammunition are provided for these brave men; no, not one musket to six men that would cheerfully risk their lives in defence of their country." He says, "they are destitute of arms and ammunition; they are neither of them to be purchased in the county."

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 149-153, New York State Library.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th September, 1812.

Yesterday afternoon the *Queen Charlotte* arrived at Fort Erie in seven days from Detroit. A flag of truce soon landed at Buffalo Creek, Major Atwater and Lieutenant John L. Eastman, who gave an account of the fall of Fort Dearborn. (Chicago.)

On Friday evening, the 11th inst., Major General Hall arrived at this place, where, we understand, he will make his headquarters. He is assigned to the command of the troops at Black Rock, the detachment from General Hopkins's brigade and such other troops as may be ordered into service here. We are correctly informed that 2,000 troops from Pennsylvania are expected at this place. They are to rendezvous at Meadville on the 25th, and will probably arrive here by the last of the month.

Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick of the United States Light Artillery arrived at Fort Niagara on the 4th inst., with some pieces of heavy ordnance by water. He was escorted by two companies of riflemen from Oswego, under the command of Captains Kellogg* and Bristol. We understand these companies will remain on this frontier. They make a very martial appearance.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Major Wm. Howe Cuyler to Colonel S. VanRensselaer.

BUFFALO, 16th Sept., 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—I enclose you a return of the ordnance, &c., at Buffalo, agreeable to Major Gen. VanRensselaer's request, by Lieut. Gansevoort, immediately on the receipt of which I waited on Genl. Porter and requested a return from him of the ordnance at the Rock, equipage, fixed and unfixed ammunition, which he promised to make me last night. Failing to do so, I this morning addressed a note to him and sent my servant, who, finding he had left the Rock for Lewiston, rode on and overtook him and delivered my note. I have not been furnished with a return from him. I beg you to assure Genl. VanRensselaer that, as speedily as possible after I am furnished with an account of what was required, I shall lose no time in making a return to him. Lt. Gansevoort will inform you of some alarms we have had. My General will communicate with yours. We send you three prisoners from the *Queen Charlotte*, who we have reason to expect have come over with improper views. Lt. Gansevoort has charge of them, and will, of course, take them to headquaters. *In all things* depend upon my most prompt and

* Editor of the *Manlius Times*.

cordial co-operation. I am not yet enabled to make a return of the force at the Rock and this place, owing to the irregularity of the returns made to me, which I am endeavoring to correct as speedily as possible. It shall be made as soon as possible.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 232.)

Extract of a Letter from —— to Major General VanRensselaer.

16th Sept., 1812.

From Tice Horn's, on Lake Erie, nine miles above Fort George (*sic*), runs a road in a northwestwardly direction, called the Ridge Road. On this road is stationed a corps of flying artillery of sixteen guns of different bores, with a troop of cavalry of 72 privates. Both corps are militia, but perfectly equipped and in excellent order. No pains have been spared to have the best horses. The artillery is in constant exercise and move with great rapidity. Four hundred men are stationed about a mile and a half in the rear of Fort Erie, and 1,000 are held in constant readiness to march from different points as occasion may require. None of these troops appear on the river in the daytime, (such is the positive orders of General Brock,) but detachments are marched down every night and return before daylight. As I understand my information, these troops, with those that appear on the river, are destined for the defense of the shore from Fort Erie down to the point where the river road is intersected by the Ridge Road. Probably similiar arrangements are made all along the line, according to circumstances.

General Brock has paid attention to every particular that can relate to the future resources of the Province under his charge, as well as to its immediate defence. The harvest has been got in tolerably well, and greater preparation is making for sowing grain than was ever made before. The militia duty is modified as much as possible to suit the circumstances of the people, and measures taken to prevent them from feeling the burden of the war. The women work in the fields, encouragement being given for that purpose.

When General Hull's proclamation appeared it had its effect, there being a security for private property contained in it. Most of the inhabitants would willingly have submitted, but when it was found that private property was seized without [compensation?] the public sentiment entirely changed. The success of General Brock established the change of sentiment. He has since made the most of it, has become personally highly popular and, in short, has

taken every measure that a judicious officer could take in his circumstances for the securing of this Province. A determination now prevails among the people to defend their country.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 175-7, New York State Library.)

Captain Samuel T. Dyson, U. S. Regt. of Artillery, to Major General Brock.

FORT GEORGE, 16th Sept., 1812.

Permit me, Sir, to mention to you the situation of the prisoners under my command. They have received no clothing from the government since last October and are almost destitute of every article of the kind. I understand there are six casks of clothing, an invoice of which I have in my possession, and was destined for Detroit for my company, now lying at Fort Niagara. If there could be any arrangement between the two governments so as to get them across it would relieve the suffering prisoners much. I also take the liberty to mention there are several men among them old, infirm and unfit for any kind of military service, and some with large families of children. If they could obtain a parole to go to the States, it would be a great relief to them.

Governor Snyder to the Secretary at War.

HARRISBURG, 16th September, 1812.

SIR,—To make up possible deficiencies, I ordered to rendezvous at Meadville 2,516 volunteers, at Pittsburg 2,214 drafted militia.

The promptitude with which the orders were obeyed induce the belief that the whole, or nearly the whole, number will rendezvous at both places. Permit me, through you, to suggest to the President the propriety of employing the surplus number of both detachments in the defence of Erie. If the President should so determine, I would further suggest that from the volunteer and drafted men of the Sixteenth Division of Pennsylvania militia, composed of the Counties of Erie, Crawford, Warren, Mercer, Venango, Beaver and Butler, might be detached the said surplus for the defence of that important post. For reasons, I beg leave to refer to the representation made by Judge Moore and others, a copy whereof was forwarded to you under date of yesterday. William Reed, Adjutant-General, who commands both detachments until organized for their march, will promptly obey any directions given by the President. Permit me again to ask an early answer, and to assure you of my perfect consideration and esteem.

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., p. 616.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 17th September, 1812.

SIR,—The situation of my little army is becoming every day more and more interesting, and I believe existing circumstances would warrant me in saying critical. As soon as our operations at and near Fort Niagara indicated a disposition to maintain the garrison, the enemy became exceedingly active. New works were thrown up and old ones modified to meet us at every point. Their works appear now to be all completed, and they are daily receiving very considerable reinforcements of men. Last evening the *Royal George* arrived at Fort George with about two hundred artillerists. About one hundred boats loaded with stores for the British army in Upper Canada have lately passed up the St. Lawrence. Two regiments of troops are also on their way up, and I am induced to believe that those lately arrived at Fort George are detachments from those regiments. The information which you had received on the subject of the enemy's reinforcements and destination was undoubtedly correct. Troops are also coming down from Fort Malden to Fort Erie. Indeed there can be no possible doubt that the enemy are very actively engaged in concentrating their forces to act in this vicinity. When the scene of action will open, I know not; it probably cannot be far distant. Such movements of the enemy have been observed for three or four days past as have induced many to believe that the hour of attack was at hand. On the 13th instant boats were engaged in putting a considerable detachment of troops on board a ship, which at evening got under way from Fort George and stood out into Lake Ontario. It was apprehended that these troops were that night to be landed on the south side of the lake in the rear of our guards. The night before last the enemy moved some boats from the landing at Queenston down the river. This excited alarm and late last night a rumor ran through the camp that the garrison was actually summoned to surrender. I only mention these things to show you what apprehensions prevail. Should the enemy attack, I have every reason to believe we shall be very severely pressed, but so serious will be the consequences of any retrograde movement or a total abandonment of Fort Niagara that upon mature consideration of all circumstances I have determined to hold if possible my present position and dispute every inch of ground. My force bears no proportion to the duties required, besides the discipline of the troops is not such as to warrant perfect reliance, and many of our arms are not fit for action. These are considerations which you, sir, and my fellow citizens, will do me the justice to bear in mind whatever result may

happen. For the application of the means entrusted to me, I hope I shall be able to justify myself to my country. My greatest fear is that the troops destined to reinforce me will not join me in season. In every calculation heretofore made upon my reinforcements, both as to time and strength, I have been disappointed. Col. Bloom's regiment, which was reported to me before its arrival for seven hundred, is little more than four hundred.

I am erecting a storehouse and magazine upon the high ground in the rear of my camp, but for the want of teams, tools, and nails, the work proceeds but slowly. We build with logs, and rive our shingles from bolts of oak. It is with extreme difficulty we can procure teams upon any emergency. The horses of the cavalry and flying artillery are badly supplied with hay, and as for *grain* they are almost entirely destitute. I have completed the road through the woods from my camp to the garrison. Amidst all our difficulties, this is the most cheering day for the troops which I have witnessed. Their clamor for pay has been high and incessant. I felt many of its bad consequences and apprehend still, but assurances now received that their pay is near seem to elate them.

By the return of ordnance which I yesterday received from Fort Niagara, I discover that our two mortars are $10\frac{1}{2}$ inch instead of $13\frac{1}{2}$, as Capt. Leonard's memorandum to me states them. The shells will be calculated accordingly. I have enclosed a copy of a letter which I last night received from General Brock, covering an extract of a letter from Capt. Dyson, of the United States Regiment of Artillery, to him, and I this morning sent Col. VanRensselaer to Fort George, when he had an interview with Capt. Dyson, and such arrangements have been made that Capt. Dyson's company will this day receive their clothing from Fort Niagara. The other companies in Quebec, I learn from General Brock's letter, are in great distress for want of clothing.

P. S.—And to cheer up our hearts, we have picked up a birch bark on which is written a notice from the soldiers to the officers, that unless they were paid they would absolutely quit the field in 8 days from that time.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 233-4.)

Major General Brock to Colonel Procter.

FORT GEORGE, September 17, 1812.

SIR,—I have had before me your several communications to the 11th instant, addressed to myself and to Major General Sheaffe. I approve of your having detached a party to aid in the reduction

of Fort Wayne, not only because its destruction will render your position more secure, but also from the probable result of saving the garrison from sharing the fate of that of Chicago; but it must be explicitly understood that you are not to resort to offensive warfare for purposes of conquest. Your operations are to be confined to measures of defence and security. With this view, if you should have credible information of the assembling of bodies of troops to march against you, it may become necessary to destroy the fort at Sandusky and the road which runs through it from Cleveland to the foot of the rapids. The road from the River Raisin to Detroit is perhaps in too bad a state to offer any aid to the approach of an enemy except in the winter, and if a winter campaign should be contemplated against you it is probable that magazines would be formed in Cleveland and its vicinity, of all which you will of course inform yourself. In carrying on our operations in your quarter it is of primary importance that the confidence and good will of the Indians should be preserved, and that whatsoever can tend to produce a contrary effect should be carefully avoided. I therefore most strongly urge and enjoin your acting on those principles on every occasion that may offer, inculcating them in all those under your influence and enforcing them by your example, whether in your conduct towards the Indians or what may regard them, or in your language in speaking to or of them. I am aware that they commit irregularities at times, which may make this a difficult task, but you must endeavor to perform it, attending at the same time to the means already suggested to you for preventing as much as possible a repetition of disorderly conduct.

Colonel Elliott is a respectable gentlemanly man, but he by no means possesses the influence over the Indians which Captain McKee does. I recommend to you to promote as far as in you lies a good understanding with and between them and to observe a conciliating deportment and language towards the latter, that his great influence may be secured and employed in its fullest extent for the benefit of your district and for the general good. In conversation with him you may take an opportunity of intimating that I have not been unmindful of the interests of the Indians in my communications to ministers, and I wish you to learn (as if casually the subject of conversation) what stipulations they would propose for themselves or be willing to accede to in case either of failure or of success.

I understand that salvage has been demanded from individuals on several accounts for property recovered or restored, for patents, &c., &c. I lament that such a course has been adopted, for it was my intention, and it is now my wish, that our conduct in those matters

should be governed by the broadest principles of liberality. You will therefore be pleased to have returned to the several individuals the amount which each may have paid as salvage on any account.

With respect to calling out the militia, I am particularly desirous that it should not be resorted to but in cases of urgent necessity, and then only in such numbers as may be indispensably necessary; if without risk or detriment to the public service any or either of those corps can be spared let them be dismissed.

I wish the engineer to proceed immediately in strengthening Fort Amherstburg, his plan for which I shall be glad to see as soon as possible.

Of the ordnance stores of every description, you will reserve such proportions as may be absolutely required for the public service in your district, and cause the remainder to be embarked and sent down to Fort Erie with the least possible delay.

I cannot at present make the change in the distribution of the 41st Regiment which you propose, but whenever circumstances may permit I shall be happy to accede to your wishes.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 310-12.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 17, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday evening, and extract of a letter addressed to you on the 15th instant by Captain Dyson of the United States regiment of artillery, also a packet addressed to the Honorable Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Colonel VanRensselaer will have the honor to deliver this communication, and I have entrusted him to solicit your permission for an interview with Captain Dyson for the purpose of ascertaining particularly the condition of the prisoners of war under his charge, to the end that they may be relieved from Fort Niagara if practicable, and if not that I may, without delay, state their condition to the government, that they may receive from the proper department the earliest possible supplies.

The women and children and such other persons as have accompanied the detachment from Detroit and ought to be here received, I will immediately receive at Fort Niagara or such other convenient place as you may order them to be landed at.

In a communication which I some time since had the honor of receiving from Lieut.-Colonel Myers, he assured me that it had been the constant study of the general officer commanding on this line to

discountenance by all means in his power the warfare of sentinels, yet the frequent recurrence of this warfare within a few days past would warrant the presumption that a different course has been adopted. I wish to be assured of this fact.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 312-3.)

Major General Brock to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, Sept. 17, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date. Captain Dyson has obtained my permission to cross on his parole to the United States; he, however, requested to remain till tomorrow to settle with the men of his detachment. He shall in the meantime have an interview with Colonel VanRensselaer.

Measures will be immediately taken to land the women and children at Fort Niagara.

It has been with the utmost regret that I have perceived within these few days a very heavy firing from both sides of the river. I am, however, given to understand that on all occasions it commenced on yours, and from the circumstances of the flag of truce which I did myself the honor to send over yesterday having been repeatedly fired upon while in the act of crossing the river, I am inclined to give full credit to the correctness of the information. Without, however, recurring to the past, you may rest assured on my repeating my most positive orders against the continuance of a practice which can only be injurious to individuals without promoting the object which both nations may have in view.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, p. 313.)

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 17th Sept., 1812.

Militia General Orders.

His Honor Major General Brock finds it necessary to direct that no expense shall be incurred by any militia officer without an order from the officer commanding the district.

By order,

J. MACDONELL, Lt.-Col.,
Militia P. A. D. C.

General Van Rensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 17th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your packet by Major Moore, who arrived in camp last evening. The duties of the day are too pressing to allow me the leisure I could wish to answer your letter particularly. I must therefore beg leave to refer Your Excellency to my despatches to Major General Dearborn.

I cannot, however, but express the satisfaction I feel at the approbation which my conduct thus far in the campaign has received. To perform my duty, arduous as it is, is comparatively easy, but to determine what my duty is in a wide field of action where everything is unshaped and uncertain, is often a task of no small difficulty. I am conscious to myself that I have studied it faithfully, and performed to the best of my ability. My situation is growing every hour more interesting, perhaps critical: the particulars you will find in my letter to General Dearborn. But, with my little force, I shall certainly attempt to hold my position, with full reliance on Your Excellency's assurances that every effort will be made to support me.

A retrograde movement of this army upon the back of that disaster which has befallen the one at Detroit, would stamp a stigma upon the national character which time could not wipe away. I shall therefore try to hold out against superior numbers and every disadvantage, until I shall be reinforced.

I am happy to learn that the money to pay the troops is at hand. I announced it in orders this morning. The information cheers our camp, and I hope they will soon realize their expectations, for in truth their wants are many.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII, pp. 159-161, New York State Library.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 17th Sept., 1812.

Major General VanRensselaer revokes the sentence of death pronounced against *Reuben Schuyler* and *Thomas Moore* by the court martial, whereof Captain Leonard was president, and by general orders of the ninth instant directed to be carried into execution on the eighteenth instant, at Fort Niagara.

This act of clemency of the Major General in declaring the full and absolute pardon of those unfortunate men, it is hoped will make a lasting impression on their future conduct in life, and that they will still show by their good behavior that they are worthy of a life which they had forfeited to their country and their God.

But let it not be presumed that this first act of lenity in the Major General will be extended to others. He is under obligations of duty to his country, and with these his feelings as a man shall not interpose.

The prisoners will be released and returned to their duty.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aide-de-Camp.

Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Sept. 17th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 8th was this day received. I have ordered two regiments from this camp and two companies of artillery for Niagara. When they arrive with the regular troops and militia from the southward, and such additional numbers of militia as I reckon upon from this State, the aggregate force will, I presume, amount to upwards of six thousand. It is intended to have a force sufficient *to enable you to act with effect, although late.* Brigadier-General Smith (Smyth) will leave this place to-morrow to take command of his brigade of regular troops when they arrive. I persuade myself that you will not, under your present circumstances, risk more than prudence will justify: and that, of course, you will be prepared *in case you are pushed to fall back,* so as not to hazard an action on very unequal footing. If the enemy should make an attempt on you his endeavor will undoubtedly be to cut off your retreat by light parties and Indians. You will excuse my repeated cautions, but from the best information I have received, I am induced to fear an attempt will be made on your post before sufficient reinforcements will reach you. This will be conveyed by a safe hand and in confidence.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 55.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, September 18th, 1812.

SIR,—I have been honored with Your Excellency's despatch dated the 7th instant. I have implicitly followed Your Excellency's instructions and abstained, under great temptation and provocation, from every act of hostility. The information received from a deserter, and which I had the honor to detail in my last, is far from correct, and where credit is to be given the facts apply solely to the regular force. The militia, being selected from the most violent democrats, are generally inclined to invade this province.

Provisions are in tolerable plenty—the only complaint arises from a want of vegetables. It is currently reported that the enemy's force is to be increased to seven thousand, and that on their arrival an attack is immediately to be made. I am convinced that the militia would not keep together in their present situation without such a prospect, nor do I think the attempt can be long deferred. Sickness prevails in some degree along the line, but principally at Black Rock.

The flank companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment have joined me. A sergeant and twenty-five rank and file of the Veterans arrived at the same time, whom I propose sending to Michilimackinac. The enclosed letters from Colonel Procter will inform Your Excellency of a force having been detached under Captain Muir for the reduction of Fort Wayne. I gave orders previous to my leaving Amherstburg for it, which must have induced Colonel Procter to proceed, upon receiving intelligence of the recommencement of hostilities, without waiting for further directions. I regret that this service should have been undertaken contrary to Your Excellency's wishes or intentions, but I beg leave to assure Your Excellency that the principal object in sending a British force to Fort Wayne is with the hope of preserving the lives of the garrison. By the last accounts the place was invested by a numerous body of Indians, with very little prospect of being relieved. The prisoners of war, who know perfectly the situation of the garrison, rejoiced at the measure and give us full credit for our intentions.

The Indians were likewise looking to us for assistance. They heard of the armistice with every mark of jealousy, and had we refused to joining them in the expedition it is impossible to calculate the consequences. I have already been asked to pledge my word that England would enter into no negotiation in which their interests were not consulted, and could they be brought to imagine that we should desert them the consequences must be fatal.

I have perused with every possible attention Your Excellency's instructions, "that whenever I was informed that the enemy have made an attempt to penetrate into the Lower Province, I am to concentrate all my disposable force, and immediately make such a diversion as shall indicate a disposition to operate upon his lines of communication." My force is so scattered and so immediately required for the defence of the different posts at which it was stationed, that I am at a loss to know in what manner I can possibly act so as to produce the effect expected.

I shall be obliged to Your Excellency to direct five thousand pounds to be transmitted to the Receiver-General for the civil

expenditure of this Province. Army bills, I make no doubt, will answer every purpose.

This despatch is entrusted to Lt.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster-General of the Militia, whom I take the liberty to introduce to Your Excellency as perfectly qualified, from his local knowledge and late return, to afford every information of the state of affairs in the Western District. He is instructed to make extensive purchases of necessaries for the use of the militia, and I have to entreat Your Excellency to indulge him with the means of a speedy conveyance back to this place.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 90.)

Major General Brock to Savery Brock.

FORT GEORGE, September 18, 1812.

DEAR BROTHER,—You doubtless feel much anxiety on my account. I am really placed in a most awkward predicament. If I get through my present difficulties with tolerable success, I cannot but obtain praise. But I have already surmounted difficulties of infinitely greater magnitude than any within my view. Were the Americans of one mind the opposition I could make would be unavailing, but I am not without hope that their divisions may be the saving of this province. A river of about 500 yards broad divides the troops. My instructions oblige me to adopt defensive measures, and I have evidenced greater forbearance than was ever practised on any former occasion. It is thought that without the aid of the sword, the American people may be brought to a due sense of their own interests. I firmly believe I could at this moment sweep everything before me from Fort Niagara to Buffalo—but my success would be transient.

I have now officers in whom I can confide. When the war commenced I was really obliged to seek assistance among the militia. The 41st is an uncommonly fine regiment, but wretchedly officered. Six companies of the 49th are with me here, and the remaining four at Kingston, under Vincent. Although the regiment has been ten years in this country, drinking rum without bounds, it is still respectable and apparently ardent for an opportunity to acquire distinction. It has five captains in England and two on the staff in this country, which leaves it bare of experienced officers. The U. S. regiments of the line desert over to us frequently, as the men are tired of their service; opportunities seldom offer, otherwise I have reason to think the greater part would follow the example. The militia, being chiefly composed of enraged democrats, are more ardent and anxious to engage, but they have neither subordination

nor discipline. They die very fast. You will hear of some decided action in the course of a fortnight, or in all probability we shall return to a state of tranquillity. I say decisive, because if I should be beaten the Province is inevitably gone, and should I be victorious, I do not imagine the gentry from the other side will be anxious to return to the charge.

It is certainly something singular that we should be upwards of two months in a state of warfare, and that along this widely extended frontier not a single death, either natural or by the sword, should have occurred among the troops under my command, and we have not been altogether idle; nor has a single desertion taken place.

I am quite anxious for this state of warfare to end, as I much wish to join Lord Wellington and to see you all.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 315-17.)

Lt.-Col. John R. Fenwick to General VanRensselaer.

FORT NIAGARA, Sept. 18, 1812.

SIR,—Yesterday afternoon was sent over in a flag eleven women and nineteen children. Their situation is a distressing one. There is also a fifer of the 1st U. S. Infantry. He brings from Gen. Brock no pass or certificate. I know not in what light to view them. I beg your instructions respecting these people. I don't think it prudent to leave them here. Your order revoking the sentence upon the two unfortunate criminals was carried into effect. The scene was affecting, and I trust will be attended with beneficial consequences. No occurrence of moment has happened since I last wrote you. I beg you to order a general court martial. We have four or five deserters.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 235.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 18, 1812.

By virtue of a power recently vested in the Major General by His Excellency Governor Tompkins, the following troops are ordered into immediate service and will repair without delay to headquarters.

CAVALRY.

Lieut.-Colonel Boughton will detach Major Evans and three full troops of cavalry, completely equipped with good horses, arms, accoutrements, blankets, &c.

ARTILLERY.

Captain Hart, Canandaigua, Ontario County.
Captain Pierce, Genesee, do. do.
Captain Ellicott, Batavia, Genesee do.
Captain Jacks, Junius, Seneca do.
Captain Compston, Aurelius, Cayuga do.

With their cannon, small arms, equipments, and blankets complete.

RIFLEMEN.

Major Gaylord's battalion, Steuben County.
Major Granger's battalion, Ontario County.
Captain Brown's company, of Lima, Ontario County.
Captain A. Bloom's company, Genoa, Cayuga County.
Captain Allen's or Lieut. Johnson's, Genoa, Cayuga County.
Captain Ireland's company, Fayette, Seneca County.

With their rifles powder horns, blankets, and everything complete.

LIGHT INFANTRY.

Captain Hill's company, Bristol, Ontario County.
Captain McKinstry's company, Penfield, Ontario County.
Captain White's Company, Palmyra, Ontario County.
Captain Sutton's company, Ovid, Seneca County.
Captain Terry's company, Ulysses, Seneca County.
Captain John Richardson's company, styled Cayuga Rangers, Auburn, Cayuga County.
Captain Saterly's company, Sempronius, Cayuga County.
Captain Solomon Woodworth's, Cato, Cayuga County.
Captain Noble's company, Warsaw, Genesee County.
Captain Ebenezer Hillebert's company, Attica, Genesee County.

With their arms, accoutrements, and blankets complete.

These troops will be inspected by the proper officers and marched the nearest route to this place with all possible despatch.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 177-8, New York State Library.)

Lieut. Jesse D. Elliott to Captain Chauncey.

BUFFALO, Sept. 18, 1812.

SIR,—I have with all possible despatch repaired to the head-quarters of General VanRensselaer. As regards my expedition, he is entirely uninformed. He has not the most distant idea of the navigation of Lake Erie, or of any of its resources. By his advice

I have consulted with General Porter, who is perfectly acquainted with every part of the lake. He is employed by the public to build many boats, which are intended for the troops when invading Canada. He has at the general expense agreed to build me four of the description named in your letter, and have them ready in a few days. I have contracted for a sufficient quantity of plank to deck and bottom two ships of 300 tons; have examined all the situations on Lake Erie; cannot get one that will answer our purpose. Those that have shelter have not a sufficient depth of water, and those that have water cannot be defended from the enemy and the violence of the weather. In extending my view to Niagara River, I find that immediately in its mouth, receiving its water from Lake Erie, we can be handsomely situated as regards building, fitting out, and erecting barracks and magazines. I enclose you a sketch of the River Niagara, where you will observe that about three miles on our side we have an island carrying from the lake only five feet of water, and on the north side twelve feet at all times; when with a strong southerly wind, 14. One difficulty attending it is the getting our vessels through the rapids, where the water runs about four knots, and being obliged to get by a strong battery. General VanRensselaer has informed me that he would remove that difficulty by getting possession of the battery. The roads are good with the exception of about 13 miles, which are intolerable bad. Provisions are plenty. The British have a force of considerable moment: one ship of 20 guns, 10 feet water, badly manned; one brig of 14 guns, one brig of 10 guns, and two schooners of 10 guns; some other vessels unmanned, say four in all. We have only six: a brig of 90 tons, the others are schooners from 40 to 80 tons, all good vessels, and in the intended place for a navy yard. As those vessels would not be sufficiently formidable to contend with the enemy at present, General VanRensselaer has thought it advisable to direct our attention to Lake Ontario, which he says is of all importance at this moment, suspend the fitting out of small vessels on Lake Erie, go on with the barracks and magazine, and collect the timber for building. During the armistice our vessels became very much dispersed—only a few of them at Sackett's Harbor, three were chased into Genesee River, and one into Oswego. They are not very distant from this. He has satisfied me of the necessity of our attention being directed to these four vessels. His letter to me I enclose a copy of for your perusal. The carpenters have not arrived. I have by express ordered them to Genesee Falls; will set out in the morning myself. I shall get on altering these vessels until I have your further commands. Should arming these vessels meet your approbation the ordnance

had better immediately come on to this place, together with the officers and men. Our movements at this place will go on in the meantime as if attended to myself. Our movements as regarding the boats will be perfectly secret. The alterations to the vessels as well as building will be immediately in sight of the enemy. The river is so narrow that the soldiers are shooting at each other across. Ordnance for this place had better come on when the snow is on the ground, and then in sleds. It will not be possible to get through in wagons. Direct your letter to me at the Genesee Falls.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 189-190, New York State Library.

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, September 19th, 1812.

The Major General calls the attention of the officers to the 41st, 42d, 43d, 44th, 45th, 46th and 53d articles of war, and directs that they shall be read to the troops. If any officer or soldier has the hardihood to violate either of them, he shall be treated as those articles direct. The shameful inattention to duty in the face of a powerful enemy, by many of the officers and soldiers, will render this resort necessary, however unpleasant it may be to the Major General.

In violation of a general order of the 19th August, several of the field officers did not attend parade duty yesterday. It is hoped that such conduct in them will not occur again, for if it should the Major General will be compelled to resort to measures which will be very unpleasant to himself and them.

The guards will be augmented this night, and if any officer or soldier discloses the watchword he will be dealt with as the 53d article of the rules and articles of war directs.

The officer of the day will direct every officer and soldier to be taken up after the beating of retreat, whether he has the countersign or not, if found out of camp without permission in writing from the Major General.

Lieut.-Col. Fenwick will order a general court martial for the trial of such prisoners of the United States troops as may be brought before the court, and report the proceedings without delay to the Major General.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aide-de-Camp.

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 20th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—It was with extreme regret and concern that I yesterday learned through Lieut.-Col. Myers that in a repetition of the practice of firing between sentinels, which I have so often peremptorily prohibited, one shot has proved fatal to a man at the Lime Kilns, on the Canada shore. Immediately on receiving information of this unfortunate event, I caused strict inquiry to be made to the end that the offender, if discovered, might be punished according to his demerit. But the result of this inquiry has not furnished me with the least evidence against any man. I cannot ascertain that a single gun has been fired at or near the place from whence the shot was supposed to have been thrown.

That these firings have been repeatedly *commenced on* both sides is not to be questioned. The fact is established by the testimony of officers whose rank and character in both armies utterly precludes all doubt. It is a circumstance which in this explanation ought not to be omitted, that there may be on both sides the river—there certainly is reason to believe there are on this side—persons not under *immediate* command in either army who occasionally approach the river, discharge their pieces at the sentries and then escape unobserved in their retreats, while the fire thus begun is returned upon an unoffending sentinel. I have caused patrols to be sent out to take such persons, but without success.

I can only repeat, sir, that I deeply regret the unfortunate occurrence which has happened; that my orders against the practice which has occasioned it have been most peremptory; my efforts to enforce them are unremitting, and every attempt to convict anyone of disobedience as yet is unavailing.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 74.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 20th September, 1812.

The Grenadier company of the 49th Regt. will hold itself in readiness to march at an hour's notice for Queenston, where it will remain under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Plenderleath.

No. 2.—Sixty men of the 41st Regiment, under the directions of Lieut. Bullock, will march at 5 o'clock to-morrow morning for Chippawa, and on their arrival at that post Capt. Bullock will be pleased to strengthen the detachment stationed at the head of Navy Island (under Capt. Saunders) with 20 additional men from the 41st Regiment.

No. 3.—Captain Selby's company of York militia will hold itself in immediate readiness to march for Brown's Point. The Deputy-Quartermaster-General will be pleased to signify the route and point out the quarters to be occupied by the above detachment. The commissariat will provide the necessary conveyance.

No. 4.—A board of survey to assemble at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning at the barrack master's quarters for the purpose of ascertaining the damage done to the barrack articles.

DETAIL FOR THE ABOVE SURVEY.

41st Regiment—1 Captain, 1 Q.-Master, R. Newf'l'd do. —— 1 sub. ——

1	1	—	—	1

By order.

THOMAS EVANS,
Major of Brigade.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 20th Sept., 1812.

The Major General commanding most earnestly calls the attention of officers in the command of divisions and that of the officers in general to the state of the men's arms, ammunition, and appointments under their immediate superintendence, as he expects every soldier, whether of the line or militia, will be at all times in the most efficient state in this essential particular, and every way prepared to meet the enemy's attack should he venture to make it.

No. 2.—The Major General trusts that the officers in charge of the different divisions use their best exertions in forwarding the drills of the several detachments of militia placed under their orders, and that the non-commissioned officers and men selected from the line for this important duty are every way qualified to give the instruction required.

No. 3.—It is expected that officers in command of companies, both of the line and of militia, are provided with order books, and that the orders are regularly read to their men in conformity to No. 3 of the D. G. O. of the 31st July.

The Major General cannot impress too strongly on the minds of the commanders the necessity of their attention and punctuality to this part of their duty.

No. 4.—The Major General acknowledges with thanks the willing manner in which that portion of the troops stationed at Fort George have contributed by their exertions to the accomplish-

ment of the present works established there, and directs that in future as small a number as possible may be furnished for finishing them in order that the militia last joined may have the opportunity of perfecting themselves in drill.

By order.

THOMAS EVANS.

Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 21 Sept., 1812.

Militia General Orders.

It having been mentioned to His Honor Major General Brock that several militiamen belonging to the flank companies of the different regiments of the Lincoln and the Second Regiment of York militia are now absent from their respective companies without leave, he has been pleased to direct that the captains or officers commanding the said companies do immediately transmit to the officers commanding the regiments or battalions to which their respective companies belong a particular return of such as are so absent, and His Honor has been further pleased to direct that officers commanding corps do use every means in their power to cause such absentees to be apprehended and sent to their respective companies, to be dealt with as the law directs, unless it shall satisfactorily appear that any such absentee is about voluntarily to return to his duty, in which case His Honor is pleased to direct that the offence may be overlooked for this time.

By order.

J. MACDONELL, Lt.-Col.,
Militia P. A. D. C.

The Secretary of War to Major General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Sept. 21, 1812.

(Abstract.)

The Pennsylvania Regiment has been ordered to march, agreeably to his request. Great hopes are entertained that General Harrison will recover the ground lost by General Hull, and enter Upper Canada.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 22nd Sept., 1812.

The Major General commanding returns his particular thanks to the militia for the handsome manner in which they have on all

occasions volunteered their services for duties of fatigue, and is pleased to direct for the present that further services for such duties shall be dispensed with.

No. 2.—Colonel Claus will give the necessary directions for the periods of drill for the militia, and Sergeant Lyon of the 41st and Sergeant Thomas of the Royal Newfl'd will attend as instructors at the hours appointed by Col. Claus. The 41st will also furnish a second non-commissioned officer capable of instructing the men for this particular duty.

By order.

THOMAS EVANS.

Major General VanRensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 22nd Sept., 1812.

SIR,—Since I had the honor to address Your Excellency and Major General Dearborn on the 17th instant, nothing of very great importance has taken place. The position of the army is still the same—guarding with great vigilance (as far as our force will admit) every point accessible by the enemy. On the night of the 20th all the ships which the enemy has on Lake Ontario were anchored in the mouth of Niagara River. What was the object of this movement I know not, unless it was to avoid the violence of the most tremendous storm which we have lately had, and in which our troops have suffered much. By the great violence of the wind many tents were blown over, my own marquee, bed and all, was completely deluged.

My morning report of sick is 149.

Colonel VanRensselaer went over with a flag to Fort George to carry my answer to a communication which I had received from General Brock relative to a firing between our sentinels, by which one man on the Canadian side was killed. There was yesterday no general officer at Fort George, and the ships were all gone. As yet I have not been able to get any information respecting this movement.

Last evening Lieut. [Totten?] of the corps of engineers reported himself to me. I hear nothing of the District Paymaster, nor of a single company to reinforce the troops, whose duty is very severe.

I had ordered Lieut. Elliott of the navy, with the men engaged for the service under his command, to the mouth of the Genesee River to arm and equip such of the vessels lately blockaded there, as he might think proper for the public service. He has undoubtedly advised Captain Chauncey of this arrangement. But, since the

departure of Lieut. Elliott, I have been informed that those vessels have escaped from Genesee River and gone to Oswego.

I enclose an extract from a letter I have this morning received from a gentleman who has heretofore made me several useful communications. He assures me the information may be relied on. This extract may be useful to General Dearborn.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 174-5, New York State Library.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 22d September, 1812.

Yesterday a flag arrived from Fort Erie, bringing over Aaron Greeley, Esq., late Surveyor General of the Michigan Territory, with his family and effects, together with several other persons. They left Malden on Friday, and arrived at Fort Erie on Saturday, on board the brig *Adams*, after the remarkably short passage of 33 hours. We are authorized by Mr. Greeley to state the British officers and Indian agents do everything in their power to prevent the Indians from committing acts of cruelty. Mr. Greeley also contradicts in express terms the report that *the British either gave or offered six dollars, or any other sum, for SCALPS*, but, on the contrary, discountenanced the Indians by all possible means from acts of cruelty.

A PRIZE TO THE BRITISH.

On the 6th a boat belonging to Mr. Lovejoy of this village was freighted for Erie and went out of port in the morning, but the wind hauling unfavorable she made but little progress. In a short time a British armed boat came out from under Point Abino and gave chase. The boatmen ran ashore a few miles above 18 Mile Creek, abandoned the boat and tried to obtain assistance from the people on shore, but obtaining only 3 or 4 old muskets in bad order they could make no opposition. The British boat came up and towed away the deserted boat with all the property, which consisted of 45 barrels of salt shipped by General Porter for Erie, the remainder of the loading chiefly belonging to Mr. Lovejoy, whose loss is not less than 1000 dollars.

PLUNDERING.

On the 15th inst. a boat from the Canadian shore landed a number of soldiers near Sturgeon Point, who stopped a wagon and seized a quantity of leather, and afterwards entered the house of Mr. N. Lay (the family having previously fled to the woods) and pillaged all the wearing apparel, not excepting the small articles of women's and children's wear—all the bed furniture, sheets, pillow cases, &c., all the provisions they could carry off; all the kitchen

furniture they could not take they destroyed, and afterwards took a calf tied near the house and carried off the booty to the boat. Mr. Lay's loss was not less than 300 dollars. The house of Mr. Gates was then plundered of 60 or 70 doll's. Another house was plundered of several articles, the amount of which we have not ascertained. We understand that measures will be taken to reclaim the property.

FORT NIAGARA.

We understand that Colonel Fenwick, since his arrival, has strengthened some parts of Fort Niagara very considerably, and put the ordnance in excellent commanding positions.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 22d Sept., 1812.

DEAR ALEXANDER,—

. . . . . .

The enemy appear to be in a state of preparedness to give or receive an attack. Every day or two they make some movement which indicates dispositions to attack us immediately. Night before last every ship they have on Lake Ontario came into the mouth of Niagara. Then, to be sure, we thought it time to look-out for breakers. But yesterday when Col. VanRensselaer went over with a flag to Fort George there was not a ship in sight nor a general officer there; where gone we know not. Notwithstanding the most positive orders on both sides, our sentinels have kept up almost a constant warfare for a month past. On the bank of the river musket balls are about as thick as whippowills on a summer's evening. A wretch fired the other evening at Judge Barton and myself as we were sitting upon our horses on the bank. The shot came in a correct line, but fell 20 rods short in the river. Last Saturday morning one of our lads returned the compliment, and put his ball so quick thro' a lad's head on the other side that he fell dead without even winking. Over came Lieut.-Col. Myers, with whom I had the honor of an hour's conference on the bank. Both talked it largely and returned good fellows. . . . .

. . . . . .

We are promised reinforcements by companies, battalions, regiments, brigades, and I might almost say armies, but not a single man has joined us in some weeks. Besides, our men here are getting down very fast within three or four days. This morning's report of sick was 149. We have lately had the most tremendous

storm of cold rains and wind that I every saw at this season of the year—it was eno' to make an ox quake. The wind was terrible; hail, lightning, thunder, and the whole army of terrors seemed pressed into requisition. Many tents blew up and over; the General's marquee was deluged, bed and all drenched. . . .

. . . . . .

Give Mrs. Lovett the enclosed. It contains an impression of General Brock's seal, with his most appropriate motto: "He who guards never sleeps." The campaign will wind up with some very interesting occurrences. I think I begin to see how the crisis is forming. *We shall invade Canada.*

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 236-7.

From the Federal Republican of Baltimore, Md., 5th October, 1812.

(Extract from a letter dated 22nd September, 1812.)

There is at Niagara about 700 United States troops; at Lewiston, 800 militia; at Black Rock, 300 militia; at Schlosser, 400 militia; at Lewiston Meadows, 40 horse and 60 infantry. The militia generally were much dissatisfied in consequence of not having received any pay, and about 20 men stacked their arms on parade and determined to return home, but were prevailed to remain by the assurance that the paymaster would be out the last of this month. Desertion on this side is frequent; two of the United States troops swam over to Fort George on the 11th inst., who were capable of giving general and correct information as to the strength and situation of the troops on this side. They were not discovered until nearly half way over, when they were fired upon, and the British sent off a boat and picked them up without injury.

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

(No. 9.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 22d Sept., 1812.

MY LORD,—In my despatch No. 7, dated the 1st inst., I had the honor of transmiting to Your Lordship copies of letters from Major General Brock detailing the surrender of Fort Detroit, with copies of the capitulation, return of stores, &c., &c.

I have now the honor of reporting to Your Lordship that Brig'r-Gen'l Hull, together with the first division of prisoners, consisting of 22 officers and 343 men, part of the regular army which surrendered at Detroit, arrived at this place on the 6th inst. The remainder, amounting to about 140 men and their proportion of officers, are still in Upper Canada, and will be forwarded hither as soon as the means can be procured of sending them. The men and the greater part of the officers which have arrived have been sent to Quebec.

Brig.-Gen'l Hull being desirous of returning to the United States on his parole, for the purpose of justifying his own conduct and exposing the imbecility of that of his government in totally neglecting to support directly (or indirectly) his offensive operations, either by reinforcing his army or by making demonstrations of attack upon other points on the frontier line simultaneously with the one he was commanded to make on Amherstburg, I have therefore allowed him to proceed to Boston, for which place he set off on the 10th inst. with his aid-de-camp. I feel confident that his presence in the United States will have the effect of adding strength to the party there in opposition to the war, and that it will also tend to embarrass the American Government. The situation of several of the officers, particularly those with families, has induced me to extend to them the like indulgence. As in these instances I have conceived myself acting agreeably to the views and conciliatory disposition of His Majesty's government, I trust His Royal Highness the Prince Regent will be graciously pleased to approve of what I have done, and that the liberality thus manifested on his part will be attended with the best effects.

I am happy to be able to assure Your Lordship that the spirit and zeal which are now evinced by all classes of persons in the Province (but more particularly by the militia) to resist the attacks with which they are threatened, afford me strong hopes that the enemy will meet with disappointment should they think fit to invade the country. The volunteering of a considerable portion of the English militia of this populous town for permanent duty enables me to withdraw from hence the regulars as circumstances may require, and materially aids the public service.

(Canadian Archives, Q 118, p. 251.)

Major General Brock to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 23d Sept., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the twentieth instant. I never doubted for a moment that the firing from your side of the river upon individuals was contrary to your intentions and in violation of your orders, and I beg leave to repeat that every effort shall be made on my part to prevent a recurrence of such acts of insubordination on this side.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 75.)

The Secretary of War to Major General Dearborn.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Sept. 23, 1812.

(Abstract.)

By letters received from Erastus Granger it appears that the young men of the Six Nations can no longer be restrained, and that in case of the refusal on the part of the United States to accept their services they would join the Indians under the British standard. Although the policy of the United States has been against this course, it is forced upon us by the common principle of self-defence. Mr. Granger has therefore been authorized, after every attempt to secure their neutrality has failed, to embody them. They should be engaged as far as possible against an enemy of their own description.

From the New York Evening Post, 2d June, 1813.

Letter from an Officer at Buffalo, Dated Sept. 24th, 1812.

The Indian agent at Buffalo has been instructed by the President of the United States to accept the services of the savages of the Six Nations and organize them. There will probably be within a fortnight at Buffalo between two and four hundred Indian warriors embodied and organized to the service of the United States.

(From file in the New York Society Library.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 25th September, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

Major Merritt will please to furnish daily an orderly dragoon to be at the brigade major's office by 12 o'clock each day for the transmission of orders, &c. Heads of departments, officers in command of corps, and others having letters on the public service to forward to any part of the line betwixt this post and Fort Erie, and to Amherstburg or Detroit, will send them to brigade major's office any time before half-past eleven o'clock. Officers in command of divisions and posts stationed along the line will avail themselves of this orderly express to forward their communications to headquarters.

No. 2.—Until further orders, tattoo will beat at eight o'clock in the evening.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS, Brigade Major.

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 25th September, 1812.

The detachment of Lieut.-Col. Hopkins's regiment will be stationed at Tonawanta and guard the passes on the river, and will relieve the guards of Lieut.-Col. Swift's regiment now there. All the supernumerary officers of Lieut.-Col. Hopkins's regiment will be disbanded, and such only kept in service as are absolutely necessary to officer this detachment agreeable to law.

General Hall will give orders accordingly. Captain Ellicott's company of artillery will be stationed at the battery opposite Fort Erie, to which place one eighteen-pounder is ordered.

Returns of the state of the troops, their arms and accoutrements, will be made to the Major General once a week by General Hall and the commanding officer of the United States troops at Fort Niagara, and they are directed to have everything in readiness for action at a moment's warning.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.
SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

From the New York Statesman, 25th September, 1812.

INDIAN AUXILIARIES.

The Indian agent at Buffalo has been instructed by the President of the United States to accept the services of the warriors of the Six Nations and to embody and organize them, and the writer of the communication in the Canandaigua paper says it is believed by all who are acquainted with the Indian character that the inhabitants of the Niagara frontier will find greater safety (in this auxiliary force of the natives of the woods) than in any other while the hostile armies remain in the neighborhood, and he adds that there will probably be within a fortnight at Buffalo between 3 and 400 Indian warriors embodied and organized in the service of the United States.

(From file in the New York Society Library.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Lieut. J. D. Elliott, U. S. N.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 25, 1812.

SIR,—I enclose you a copy of a letter I have this day sent to Major General Hall, with my best wishes that success may crown your enterprise.

(From Correspondence in relation to the capture of the British brigs *Detroit* and *Caledonia*, p. 27.)

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Hall.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 25, 1812.

SIR,—I have this moment received your letter of yesterday, stating Lieut. Elliott has proposed to make an attempt to cut out one of the vessels at Erie, and has requested your assistance by men, &c., for the enterprize.

You will please to furnish Lieut. Elliott immediately with men, arms, ammunition, boats, and implements of every kind, to the uttermost of his wishes, and the means you can possibly command to render the enterprize successful.

(From Correspondence in relation to the capture of the British brigs *Detroit* and *Caledonia*, Philadelphia, 1843, p. 27.)

From the Aurora, of Philadelphia, 13th October, 1812.

MEADVILLE, Sept. 25th, 1812.

The volunteer levies under the guidance of their respective brigade orders were gathering in from the 21st to the 25th inst. They were ordered to encamp in a line with the first, taking their position as they arrived upon the left. Every day the line grew rapidly. On the 24th they were organized into regiments and battalions by the Adjutant-General. The rolls of those present amount to about 1900. . . . . .

This day the election is holding. General Tannehill has been elected by four to one, brigadier-general of this detachment. The colonels are Jared Irwin, William Piper, Samuel Purviance and Jeremiah Snyder. The majors will be elected to-morrow. An express has been sent for General Tannehill. The troops await his coming. There has been grumbling and a few desertions. They were sent after but not caught.

The question of crossing the line is sometimes agitated but not determined otherwise than from the inference arising from the large majority in favor General Tannehill. One party seems to be in favor of it, the other against it. The former party holds a very large majority. Local relations and circumstances must finally settle this point.

1st Rifle Regiment—
1st Battalion—216 rank and file.
2d do. 240 do. do. do.
—— 456

2nd Rifle Regiment—
1st Battalion—209 rank and file.
2d do. 209 do. do. do.
—— 418

1st Regiment of Infantry—
1st Battalion—285 rank and file.
2d do. 231 do. do. do.
—— 516.

2d Regiment of Infantry—
1st Battalion—240 rank and file.
2d do. 213 do. do. do.
—— 453

Sir George Prevost to Major General Brock.

MONTREAL, September 25, 1812.

SIR,—It no longer appears by your letter of the 13th that you consider the enemy's operations on the Niagara frontier indicative of active operations. If the Government of America inclines to defensive measures, I can only ascribe the determination to two causes: The first is the expectation of such overtures from us as will lead to a suspension of hostilities, preparatory to negotiations for peace; the other arises from having ascertained by experience our ability in the Canadas to resist the attack of a tumultuary force.

In consequence of your having weakened the line of communication between Cornwall and Kingston, a predatory warfare is carrying on there, very prejudicial to the intercourse from hence with Upper Canada. I have ordered a company of the Glengarry to Prescott to strengthen Colonel Lethbridge, and under present circumstances you are not to expect further aid.

I agree in opinion with you that so wretched is the organization and discipline of the American army, that at this moment much might be effected against them, but as the Government at home could derive no substantial advantage from any disgrace we might inflict on them whilst the more important concerns of the country are committed in Europe, I again request that you will steadily pursue that policy which shall appear to you to promote the dwindling away of such a force by its own inefficient means.

I shall receive with much satisfaction Colonel Procter's report of having saved the garrison of Fort Wayne from the inhuman fury of the Indians. I am particularly anxious that that class of beings should be restrained and controlled as much as possible whilst there exists a pretence of implicating the national character in their cruelties.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 317-18.)

Major General Dearborn to Major General VanRensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Sept. 26th, 1812.

Major General VanRensselaer:

SIR,—Your letter of the 17th inst. was not received until this morning. Although I had taken as early measures as circumstances admitted of for having your post strongly reinforced, I have been disappointed as to the time of the actual arrival of the different corps at their places of destination, and also in regard to

the transportation of military stores to your camp. A strange fatality seems to have pervaded the whole arrangements. Ample reinforcements of troops and supplies of stores are on their way, but I fear their arrival will be too late to enable you to maintain your position. I had hoped from your former letter that the old fort had been abandoned and the stores removed to a place of more security. I fear it will, in the case of an attack from a superior force, be *a trap for the garrison that may be placed in it.* If this should reach you previous to the enemy's movement against you, I must take the liberty of advising to such a concentration of your force, and such arrangements for the safety of the principal military stores, boats, &c., &c., as will enable you in the last resort to risk no more than shall be absolutely necessary. I have requested the Quartermaster-General to send on a Deputy-Quartermaster, with funds and capacity for furnishing whatever may be necessary in his line. *By putting on the best face that your situation admits, the enemy may be induced to delay an attack until you will be able to meet him and carry the war into Canada. At all events, we must calculate on possessing Upper Canada before winter sets in.* Gen. Harrison will, I am assured, enter Canada by Detroit with not less than from six to seven thousand men, exclusive of the troops necessary for guarding the frontier against Indian depredations. The force at Sackett's Harbor and that vicinity is over two thousand, including an old company of regular artillery and a large company of old riflemen. I have great confidence in the exertions now in operation in the navy department on Lake Ontario. In fact we have nothing to fear and much to hope as to the ultimate success of measures now in operation with a view to Upper Canada, but much may immediately depend on what may happen at your post.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 59.)

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, September 27th, 1812.

Complaint having been made by the troops as to the quality of the provisions issued by the commissary, Major John Beach of the town of Lewiston, a disinterested person, is appointed on the part of Major General VanRensselaer, and he together with a person to be appointed by the commissary will, without delay, inspect the quality of the provisions against which complaint has been made, and report their opinion thereupon to the Major General.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 27th September, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The Major General having observed great deficiencies in the ammunition issued generally to the troops and the militia, he cannot too strongly impress on the minds of the officers in command of divisions the necessity of explaining to the men under their orders that, at a period like the present, a greater military offence cannot be committed than a careless negligence or wilful waste of any ammunition that may be delivered out to them for the use of the public service.

No. 2.—Whenever cartridges may be injured by wet or otherwise, the balls of such cartridges will be carefully preserved and sent in, with an account of the number, to the ordnance storekeeper, who will give a receipt for the same.

By order.

THOMAS EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, September 27th, 1812.

A guard of one hundred men, under the command of a major, with their tents and baggage, will be detached this day from Lieut.-Col. Bloom's regiment to protect the boats in Gill Creek. Lieut.-Col. Bloom will give orders accordingly, and will see that this detachment is encamped at that place before sunset this evening.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Major General VanRensselaer to Major General Dearborn.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Sept. 27th, 1812.

SIR,—By Capt. Dox, who arrived in camp yesterday, I received your letter of the 17th inst., and I can assure you it is consoling to learn that I shall soon be partially relieved from that severe suspense and solicitude which have for some weeks past been inseparably connected with my situation. In the view of those important interests which I considered to be at stake, it required much deliberation to decide on the proper course to be pursued, and when that course was determined (in the manner which I have before stated to you) it required new efforts by night and day to dispose

my small force to meet events in such manner as to justify the course adopted. But as yet I am satisfied of the correctness of the decision, and although I have acquired nothing I have surrendered nothing.

From the various accounts I have received we must, I think, in a few days be able to act, at least on the defensive, with better prospects.

Lieut.-Col. Boerstler has arrived, and by him I learn that three regiments will soon arrive. But I am mortified to understand, by a letter from Col. Winder, that the aggregate of the troops will be but about 900 men, and that his regiment is entirely without cloth clothing, which is indispensable for them in the field at this season.

The enemy continue their operations with great activity, fortifying their camp at Fort George in every direction. Seven of the 24-pounders taken at Detroit are there mounted, part on travelling carriages.

Notwithstanding the most positive orders on both sides, we are constantly troubled with the warfare of sentries. By their firings across the river one man on each side has fallen within the past week. It is next to impossible to keep our guards sufficiently vigilant on their posts. I presume His Excellency Governor Tompkins has shown you an extract of a letter which I lately forwarded him, relative to the strength of the enemy in the rear of Fort Erie. Captain Gibson has arrived. I presume Lieut. Elliott of the navy has apprised you of his arrangements. The vessels has escaped from Genesee River to Oswego. He is now with fifteen of his men at Buffalo. More ordnance seems indispensable for our future operations.

P. S.—As the post at Sackett's Harbor is within my command, I take the liberty of suggesting for your consideration the propriety of continuing so many troops—about sixteen hundred—there. While the enemy hold command of the lake, Sackett's Harbor is not a point from which a descent upon Canada can be made. We are not to apprehend general invasion at every point, and the village at that place is not of sufficient importance to the force which guards it. I know of no consideration which ought to claim more than a regiment of troops at that post, to man the batteries and guard the harbor. In my opinion every consideration connected with the general interest of the service dictates that part of the troops at Sackett's Harbor should be ordered immediately to this station.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 56.)

Major General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, UPPER CANADA, September 28, 1812.

SIR,—I have been honored with Your Excellency's despatch, dated the 14th instant. I shall suspend under the latitude left by Your Excellency to my discretion, the evacuation of Fort Detroit. Such a measure would most probably be followed by the total extinction of the population on that side of the river, or the Indians, aware of our weakness and inability to carry on active warfare, would only think of entering into terms with the enemy. The Indians since the Miami affair in 1793 have been extremely suspicious of our conduct, but the violent wrongs committed by the Americans on their territory have rendered it an act of policy with them to disguise their sentiments. Could they be persuaded that a peace between the belligerents would take place without admitting their claim to an extensive tract of country, fraudulently usurped from them, and opposing a frontier to the present unbounded views of the Americans, I am satisfied in my own mind that they would immediately compromise with the enemy. I cannot conceive a connexion so likely to lead to more awful consequences.

If we can maintain ourselves at Niagara and keep the communication to Montreal open, the Americans can only subdue the Indians by craft, which we ought to be prepared to see exerted to the utmost. The enmity of the Indians is now at its height, and it will require much management and large bribes to effect a change in their policy, but the moment they are convinced we either want the means to prosecute the war with spirit or are negociating a separate peace, they will begin to study in what manner they can effectually deceive us.

Should negociations for peace be opened, I cannot be too earnest with Your Excellency to represent to the King's ministers the expediency of including the Indians as allies; and not leave them exposed to the unrelenting fury of their enemies.

The enemy has evidently assumed defensive measures along the Niagara. His force, I apprehend, is not equal to attempt (with any probability of success) an expedition across the river. It is, however, currently reported that large reinforcements are on their march. Should they arrive, an attack cannot be long delayed. The approach of the rainy season will increase the sickness with which the troops are affected. Those under my command are in perfect health and spirits.

I beg leave to represent to Your Excellency the great want of bedding for the militia. I have received strong representations from Colonel Vincent on the subject. He reports that several men

have retired home in consequence. He has been instructed to apply (in order to save time) direct to headquarters, where he is sure to receive such relief as circumstances will admit.

A supply for this district would likewise prove very acceptable.

I have the honor to transmit the purport of a confidential communication received in my absence by Brigade-Major Evans from Colonel VanRensselaer. As Your Excellency's instructions agree with the line of conduct he is anxious I should follow, nothing of a hostile nature shall be attempted under existing circumstances.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 94.)

Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth to Major General Van-Rensselaer.

BUFFALO, 29th September, 1812.

SIR,—I have been ordered by Major General Dearborn to take command of a brigade of the U. S. troops, and directed on my arrival in the vicinity of your quarters to report myself to you, which I now do. I intended to have reported myself personally, but the conclusions I have drawn as to the interests of the service have determined me to stop at this place for the present. From the description I have had of the river below the falls, the view of the shore below Fort Erie and the information received as to the preparations of the enemy, I am of opinion that our crossing should be effected between Fort Erie and Chippawa. It has therefore seemed to me proper to encamp the U. S. troops near Buffalo, there to prepare for offensive operations. Your instructions or better information may decide you to give me different orders, which I will await.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 67.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 29th September, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

Until further orders the Grand Rounds will go their rounds betwixt the hours of ten and two o'clock, and the Visiting Rounds betwixt two and five o'clock in the morning.

By order.

THOS. EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

From the "Buffalo Gazette," Tuesday, September 29th, 1812.

BRITISH NAVAL MOVEMENT.

On Thursday evening last the British squadron lying at Fort Erie, consisting of the *Queen Charlotte*, *Adams*, *Hunter*, and two small vessels, suddenly hoisted sail and made up the lake under press of sail. The object or destination of the squadron are unknown.

Since the departure of the squadron, an armed vessel has been discovered lying under Point Abino.

BRITISH FORCES ON THIS LINE.

Since the conclusion of the armistice, the British forces have been constantly increased. It is almost impossible for us to conjecture the amount or quality of this force, but the *knowing ones guess* that including regulars, militia, and Indians, their forces will amount to nearly 4,000 men that could be marched to one point within 24 hours. This includes the frontier from Point Abino on Lake Erie to Little York on Lake Ontario. Though the length of the coast must be more than 150 miles, yet the British, having complete, undisturbed possession of the lakes, they move their armies with astonishing rapidity.

AFFAIRS OF OUR FRONTIERS.

On Wednesday evening last arrived in this village Captain Gibson with half a company of flying artillery, consisting of two 6-pounders and two caissons (ammunition wagons). This morning he took up his line of march for Fort Niagara, where he will join Lieut. Branch with the other half of his company in the rear of which garrison, we understand, this company is to be stationed.

On Saturday, the 14th United States Regiment of Infantry, under the command of Colonel Wm. H. Wynder, arrived and encamped in the village. They will, we understand, soon march for Lewiston. This regiment is composed of fine healthy young men, 337 in number. It is to be lamented that the number is so few and that the men have not yet received their winter clothing, as they come from the southward and are not accustomed to our climate.

On Sunday General Alexander Smyth, Inspector General of the army of the United States, and suite arrived at this place. We understand that General Smyth will take the command of the United States troops which, with the late reinforcement, will amount to more than 1,000 regular troops. This force together with the volunteers and detached militia will secure the country from invasion, to say the least. More troops are daily expected.

We are informed that Colonel Milton with the 5th United States Regiment will be in town this week. Colonel Schuyler with the 13th United States Regiment will also be on here within 10 or 12 days.

Two thousand Pennsylvania volunteers from Meadville are expected here in the course of a week.

On Thursday night last, Lewis Nyles, a centinel from Lieut.-Colonel Hopkins's regiment, posted near Field's tavern on the Niagara River, about 17 miles below this place, was shot dead on his post by some person, who, being hailed by the centinel, replied that he had not got the *countersign* but a *written pass*, which he would show him. On being permitted to approach to the point of the bayonet, he drew a pistol and shot the centinel and made his escape. The report of the pistol and the cries of the centinel, gave an immediate alarm, and it was thought the person made his escape across the river to Grand Island, as a boat was soon after heard upon the river.

We are informed that an accident occurred some time last week at the camp at Five-Mile Meadow. Some dispute arose between two of Captain Gibson's men of the flying artillery, the particulars we have not obtained, but are informed from a correct source that it terminated in the death of one of the men from a blow from the other by a piece of a broken tent pole or some similar weapon.

About 140 young warriors of the Seneca Nation from Allegany River arrived in town last week, and are encamped near the village. More are expected from different parts. Several conferences and councils have lately been held with the chiefs. They voluntarily offered to take up arms for defensive purposes. Yesterday they performed a *WAR DANCE* in the streets of this village.

From the "Repository" of Canandaigua, N. Y., 29th September, 1812.

Within the last few days the following forces have passed through this village for the Niagara frontier:—

Colonel Mead's regiment of militia from Chenango, Tioga, and Broome Counties, about 500 men.

Colonel Stranahan's regiment from Otsego, 500 militia.

Colonel Milton (from Virginia) with a regiment of United States troops, about 400.

A body of flying artillery, 140, with 4 pieces of cannon, ammunition wagons, &c.

Two companies of artillery.

Captain Ireland's rifle corps from Seneca County.

Another regiment of United States troops, the 13th, left Greenbush on the 18th instant, and may be expected along here in a few days.

Besides the above, several detachments are moving from this county, among them Captain Hart's artillery company of this town, Major Granger's battalion of riflemen, three troops of horse.

Captain Hill's company of light infantry of Bristol mustered yesterday, completely armed and equipped.

The above forces were accompanied with trains of wagons loaded with tents, camp equipage, &c. From what we can learn, there will in a short time be 8 or 10,000 men on the Niagara.

(File in the Wood Library, Canandaigua, N. Y.)

Speech by the Deputies of the Indians.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH OF THE DEPUTIES OF THE ONEIDA, ONONDAGA, STOCKBRIDGE, TUSCARORA, AND SENECA INDIANS, AS FAR WEST AS TONAWANDA, IN COUNCIL AT ONONDAGA, ON THE ANCIENT COUNCIL GROUND OF THE SIX NATIONS, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1812.

Having been told repeatedly by your agents to remain neutral, we were very much surprised and disappointed at the council held at Buffalo Creek at being invited to take up the tomahawk. We are not unfriendly to the United States, but are few in number and can do but little, but are willing to do what we can, and if you want us say so, and we will go with your people to battle. We are anxious to know your wishes as soon as possible, because we are afraid some of our young men may disperse among distant tribes and be hostile to you.

Signed by Canastota and fifteen other chiefs, and attested by Jasper Hopper, Thaddeus Patchin, and Pulaski King.

(MSS. in Third Auditor's Office, Washington, D. C.)

Jasper Hopper, Thaddeus Patchin, Pulaski King, John C. Conkey, John Adams, and Joel Phillips to Governor Tompkins.

Sept. (29?), 1812.

They recommend Ephraim Webster as a suitable man to command Indians, if the Government should think proper to call them into service.

(MSS. in the Third Auditor's Office, Washington, D. C.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 30th September, 1812.

D. G. Order.

A subaltern and 40 privates, with a due proportion of non-commissioned officers, will march this day (immediately after the men have dined) for Chippawa. On the arrival of this detachment at Chippawa, Captain Bullock will detach one subaltern, 2 sergeants, and forty rank and file of the 41st to Miller's, where they will receive their further orders from Major General Shaw. The Deputy-Quartermaster-General will be pleased to furnish the necessary conveyance for the baggage of this detachment.

By order.

THOS. EVANS, Brigade-Major.

General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 30th Sept., 1812.

The order, whereof a copy is annexed, from the Commander-in-Chief of the United States army was received yesterday. All those interested are to govern themselves accordingly.

The Quartermaster-General will purchase twenty horses and ——— yoke of cattle for the ordnance department, with yokes, chains, &c., complete, and furnish the necessary forage for the horses and oxen. The Quartermaster-General will make a return of the number of private boats he can procure for the transportation of troops, cannon, horses and stores.

The Major General regrets that he is again compelled to remind the Quartermaster-General of the want of forage for the light artillery and dragoon horses, and directs that it shall be furnished without delay, and in future regularly.

Those light infantry companies which have already or may hereafter arrive, excepting Capt. Dox's company, will take possession of the first cantonment below Lewiston, and will be subject to the orders of Major Thomas Lee, who is directed to take charge of them until further orders. The rifle company now there will take post at the old ferry above Lewiston. Major Moseley of the rifle corps will take command of the rifle companies which are now in camp or may hereafter arrive, until further orders.

By order of Major General VanRensselaer.

SOL. VANRENSSELAER, Aid-de-Camp.

Major General VanRensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON,
30th September, 1812.

SIR,—On my return this moment from Niagara, I received your letter of yesterday advising me of your arrival at Buffalo, and the encampment there of the United States troops, in consequence of the conclusions you have drawn that offensive operations against Upper Canada ought to be attempted between Fort Erie and Chippawa. Nothing could be more unpleasant to me than a difference of opinion as to the *place* of commencing those operations in which our own characters, the fate of the army, and the deepest interests of our country are concerned. But however willing I may be as a citizen soldier to surrender my opinion to a professional one, I can only make such surrender to an opinion deliberately formed upon a view of the whole ground.

It would have been highly gratifying to me could I have had a seasonable opportunity to avail myself of the opinions of the officers of the United States troops as to the time, place, and competent force for the contemplated descent. But as the season for operations was far advanced, and as the counsel I wished was not at command, it has been the task of my own judgment, guided by the best attainable information, to designate the places for our operations. This I had some time ago decided, and although on account of my small force I have been obliged to bestow much labor on measures calculated for defence in case of an attack, still have I urged as fast as possible other local preparations connected with that mode of descent on which I had determined. My judgment may have deceived me, but I shall certainly stand acquitted of a hasty decision. For many years I have had a general knowledge of the banks of Niagara River, and of the adjacent country on the Canada shore. I have now attentively explored the American side with the view of military operations, combining at the same time a great variety of circumstances and considerations intimately connected in my opinion with our object. So various are the opinions, and such the influence of personal and local interests in this vicinity, that many circumstances are to be carefully balanced before any correct conclusions can be drawn. My decision has been made with due regard to all these things, and to the important consequences connected with it. All my past measures have been calculated for one point, and I now only wait for a competent force. As the season of the year and every consideration urges me to act with promptness, I cannot hastily listen to a change of position necessarily connected with a new system of measures and the very great

inconvenience of the troops. I will not say that *no considerations* shall induce me to change my plans of operation, but to this I cannot yield without very weighty reasons; conclusions drawn at least from an attentive examination of the Niagara River, and all other circumstances connected with a successful result of the campaign.

I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you here, and perhaps, after conference and thorough examination of the river and country, your opinion and mine as to the plans of operations may coincide. I trust we are both open to conviction, and we have but one object—the best interest of the service.

(From S. VanRensselaer's Narrative: Appendix, p. 68.)

From the National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., 15th October, 1812.

ONONDAGA VALLEY, Sept. 30, 1812.

Colonel Stranahan passed through this village on Wednesday week (23d September) at the head of 600 fine volunteers, and was joined here with about 500 drafted militia from Cortlandt, Broome, and Chenango Counties. On Thursday Colonel Milton, from Virginia, passed here with 500 regulars. Friday two companies of artillery passed by here with four field pieces, from Baltimore and Philadelphia. On Sunday 1.000 regulars arrived here, pitched their tents and tarried till Tuesday morning, when they again commenced their march in high spirits. Tuesday morning a volunteer company of light infantry passed by here from Cherry Valley. They made a very handsome appearance. The whole number of regular troops and militia that have gone through here within a week is not far from 3,000. There were 60 men in Colonel Stranahan's regiment from Otsego County (who volunteered themselves) that were upwards of 50 years of age, and have once seen war. It is reported here that 1,500 Indians have embodied on this side of Utica and will march on the frontiers in a few days and join the American army.

LYNX.

(From file in the New York Society Library.)

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THE DOCUMENTARY

HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

— UPON THE —

Niagara Frontier

IN THE YEAR 1812.

COLLECTED AND EDITED FOR

THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By LIEUT.-COLONEL E. CRUIKSHANK,

Author of the "Story of Butler's Rangers," &c., &c.

PART II. (1812.)

PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE OFFICE, WELLAND.

The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1812.

PART II.

CIRCULAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 15th, 1811.

SIR,—It is possible (indeed it has been intimated) that in consequence of the operation of the late law prohibiting the importation into the United States of British goods the British agents and traders with the Indians may attempt to excite in their minds prejudices and hostile dispositions towards the United States, insinuating that as the British goods, intended for their trade, will not be permitted to enter and pass the American posts on the Western Frontier, this act, which has been dictated as a measure of general policy in relation to Great Britain, was intended as an act of hostility against the Indians. You will be on your guard, and use all proper measures to anticipate and frustrate any such attempts, explaining to the chiefs of the several tribes, as occasion may offer, that the Government of the United States has been compelled by long-continued injuries and violation of their rights, on the part of Great Britain, for which no satisfaction or redress has been had, to interdict their trade, rather than make war against them. That as the white people have, it is expected the red people will submit to an inconvenience, which it is in the power of Great Britain to terminate by returning to a sense of right and pursuing a course of justice.

In resisting such endeavoring and conciliating the disposition of the Indians, your vigilance and exertions are expected, and in case it should become necessary to extend indulgencies and to make presents exceeding the usual allowance, your discretion is confided in to act as circumstances may require.

The agents at the several factories will receive instructions on the subject from the superintendent of Indian trade.

Respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. EUSTIS.

Gen. Erastus Granger,
Indian agent, Six Nations.

(From Ketchum's History of Buffalo, Vol. II., pp. 248-9.)

James Brock, Secretary to General Brock, to Colonel Talbot.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
YORK, 27th February, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you by command of the President, a commission empowering you to carry into effect an act passed in the fourth session of the 7th Parliament of this Province, entitled, "An act for the better securing this Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity thereof," which His Honor makes no doubt you will readily undertake to enforce. A copy of the act is herewith transmitted.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

{SEAL} By Isaac Brock, Esquire, President, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c., &c., &c.

To Thomas Talbot of Port Talbot in the District of London, Esquire:

Whereas by an act of the Parliament of this Province, passed in the forty-fourth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, "An Act for the better securing this Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity thereof," it is among other things provided "that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government for the time being to appoint such person or persons as may appear to him proper for the purpose of arresting such person or persons not having been an inhabitant or inhabitants of this Province for the space of six months preceding the date of his warrant, or not having taken the oath of allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, who by words or actions or other behavior or conduct, hath or have endeavored, or hath or have given just cause to suspect that he, she or they, is or are about to endeavor to alienate the minds of His Majesty's subjects of this Province from his person or Government, or in any wise with a seditious intent to disturb the tranquillity thereof."

NOW KNOW YE that I, ISAAC BROCK, Esquire, President and Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces within the said Province, by virtue of the powers so vested in me, under the authority of the before recited act, have appointed and deputed and do by these presents appoint and depute you, the said Thomas Talbot, of Port Talbot, in the district of London, Esquire, to carry

into execution the several provisions in the said before recited act contained, strictly conforming yourself in every particular thereto.

Given under my hand and seal at the Government House at York this twenty-seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of His Majesty's reign the fifty-second.

By His Honor's command.

JAMES BROCK,
Secretary.

ISAAC BROCK,
President.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MILITIA ACT.

An Act to extend the provisions of an act passed in the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, "An act to explain, amend and reduce to one act of parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the militia in this Province."

(Passed 6th March, 1812.)

Whereas an Act passed in the forty-eighth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled, "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act of parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the militia of this Province is found insufficient for the purposes thereby intended: Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada constituted and assembled by virtue of and under authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province,' and by the authority of the same, that there shall be to every Battalion of Militia, now or hereafter to be formed in this Province, (the strength of which will admit thereof), two flank companies, to consist of not more than one hundred men each, nor in any case to compose more than one-third of the strength of such Battalion, and also all independent companies belonging to any county, riding or place shall provide their quota, to compose one or more flank company or companies, but in no case to exceed one-third of such independent company or companies, to be selected and formed from among such Militia men as shall at any meeting or meetings of any such battalion or independent companies volunteer for that purpose. And if it should happen that a sufficient number of persons shall not at any such meeting or meetings volunteer for the purpose

aforesaid, then and in such case the deficiency shall be made up by ballot from the Militia men of such battalion or independent company or companies who shall be under the age of forty years.

II. *Provided always nevertheless* that when it shall happen that two or more persons shall be called upon service from one family that one of them shall be excused for that time, unless it shall appear to the officer commanding such company of Militia that there is another person living in the same house capable of taking care of said family, who is not then called into actual service, and also that when a widow or aged person shall at the time of making the said ballot depend for her or his maintenance on a son, grandson or apprentice, such son, grandson or apprentice shall be excused from service, while supporting such widow or aged person.

III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that when any such flank company shall be formed it shall and may be lawful for the captain or officer commanding the same to call out such company, and he is hereby required so to do six days in each month, for the purpose of being trained and exercised as may be directed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government, and such company shall continue its training, not exceeding the said six days in every month, until the men composing the same are duly instructed in their exercise; *Provided always* that the officer commanding such company shall always after the said company shall be pronounced duly instructed, have it in his power to call out such company one day in each month to be exercised and reviewed, and oftener if he shall be so directed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government. *Provided also* that such flank company or companies, being called out for the purpose of training, it shall not be lawful for any field officer, except such as may be specially appointed for that purpose by the Governor or person administering the Government, to command or otherwise interfere in the said training or exercising.

IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government from time to time, as occasion may require, to appoint such and so many staff officers to the Militia of this Province as he may think necessary, and also from time to time to remove any Militia officer now or hereafter to be appointed and appoint another in his stead.

V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government, as often as occasion shall require, to order any and every of the said companies

to march to any part of this Province upon any such duty as he shall think necessary.

VI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that it shall be lawful for the captain or other officer commanding any company of Militia, if he shall think necessary, to divide his company into squads of such number as to him shall seem proper and the convenience of such company shall require, and that the captain or other officer commanding any such company as aforesaid shall always appoint some fit and proper person to exercise and instruct in military discipline the men to be assembled at each of the said squad meetings, and that if any non-commissioned officer or private shall refuse to obey the orders of his superior officer when employed on Militia duty, or shall quarrel with or insult by abusive words, or otherwise, any officer or non-commissioned officer being in the execution of his duty, or otherwise misbehave himself while on duty as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer then and there present to order every such offender or offenders to be taken into custody and forthwith tried by a court martial, to be composed of three or more officers of the said Militia, who upon proof of the offence by one or more credible witness or witnesses, (which oath the president of the said court martial is hereby authorized to administer), shall and may order and sentence every such offender to pay a fine not exceeding five pounds nor less than five shillings, at the discretion of the court and according to the nature of the offence, and in default of payment commit such offender to the common gaol of the district for a term not exceeding one month nor less than three days, or until the amount of such fine shall be paid, any law to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

VII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that in all trials by any court martial, other than general courts martial, the person appointed to be president thereof shall administer to each of the other members, the following oath: *You, A. B., do swear that you will administer justice to the best of your understanding in the matter now before you, according to the Militia laws of this Province and the evidence which shall be produced before you, without partiality, favor or affection.*. So help you, God. And as soon as the said oath shall have been administered by the president to the other members, any one of the said members shall administer the said oath to the president.

VIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that whenever it shall so happen that there shall not be a sufficient number of officers present to compose a court as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer to detain such

offender in custody until a court can be assembled for the trial of such offender; provided such court can be obtained within twelve hours from the time of such confinement, and in case a court as herein before directed cannot be assembled within twelve hours, such offender shall be released from such confinement and tried under the provisions of the Act of the forty-eighth of the King, entitled: "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one act of Parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the Militia of this Province."

IX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that if any person or persons shall presume to disturb, interrupt or molest any party of Militia whilst on duty, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer of such party to order any such person or persons to be carried before any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace who shall be next to the place where the offence may be committed, who, upon proof of the offence by the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, shall and may order and adjudge every such offender to pay a fine not exceeding five pounds nor less than ten shillings, and in default of payment to commit him to the common gaol of the district for a term not exceeding one month nor less than ten days, unless the fine is sooner paid by him.

X. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government, from time to time and as often as occasion shall require, to make such regulations as he may think necessary for the care and custody of any arms and accoutrements provided and supplied in order to the instruction of the Militia men to be trained and exercised; and also from time to time, as occasion may require, by any order or orders to be made and issued for that purpose, to declare and establish the dress and uniform to be worn by any and every part of the Militia of this Province; *Provided always* that nothing herein contained shall be construed to oblige any Militia man to provide any uniform at his own expense.

XI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that so much of the said Act passed in the forty-eighth year of the King entitled, "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act of Parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the Militia of this Province," as directs that no company of Militia shall consist of more than fifty men, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed, and that every company shall and may consist of a number not exceeding one hundred men.

XII. And whereas it may be convenient to form one or more

company or companies of riflemen in this Province, *be it enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government of this Province, to form and embody such company or companies, and employ the same on such duties as the necessity of the service may require.

XIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that every officer of the Militia of this Province shall, on or before the fourth day of June next, and every officer who may after that day be appointed within eight days after he shall have received his commission, before one or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district to which his regiment, battalion or company shall belong, take and subscribe the following oath, to wit:

I, A. B., do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, King George the Third, as lawful Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of this Province as dependent thereon, and that I will defend him to the utmost of my power against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his person, crown and dignity, and particularly his dominions in North America, and that I will do my utmost endeavor to disclose and make known to His Majesty, his heirs or successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against him, or any of them, and to all this I do swear without any equivocation, mental evasion or secret reservation, and renouncing all pardons and dispensations from any person or power whatsoever to the contrary. So help me, God.

XIV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government, to order and direct that the non-commissioned officers and privates of any and every regiment, battalion, company or body of Militia in this Province, shall be called upon to take and subscribe the said oath of allegiance, and that upon receiving any orders for that purpose it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer of such regiment, battalion or company, and he is hereby required to call upon every non-commissioned officer or private of his regiment, battalion or company to take and subscribe the said oath before one or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district to which such regiment, battalion or company shall belong, which oath shall be administered free of expense, and that every Justice of the Peace administering such oath shall forward a certificate thereof to the Clerk of the Peace of the District, to be enrolled, which such Clerk of the Peace is hereby required to do free of expense; and if any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private (having been

required so to do) shall refuse or neglect to take and subscribe the said oath in manner hereby directed, upon conviction before any General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or in time of actual invasion or insurrection before any Court Martial, every such person or persons shall be deemed and taken to be an alien, and shall be liable and subject to any law or laws now in force, or hereafter to be made respecting or against aliens.

XV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that so much of the said act as directs that any body or detachment of Militia, which may be called out by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government, shall and may be detained on such service for and during the space of six months at one time and no longer—shall be—and the same is hereby repealed.

XVI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that at the expiration of six months from the time of any such detachment being called out as aforesaid, one-third of the men from such detachment shall be selected by ballot, and if relieved by an equal number shall be discharged, and at the expiration of seven months from the time of calling out such detachment, another third shall be selected, and if relieved discharged in like manner; and at the expiration of eight months the remaining third, if relieved, shall be discharged.

XVII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that it shall and may be lawful to and for any Colonel or other officer commanding any regiment, battalion or company, and he is hereby required to call out his regiment, battalion or company, whenever he shall be directed so to do, for the purpose of being inspected or reviewed by any inspecting field officer of Militia or other field officers of the line, who may be sent for that purpose; and that Lieutenant-Colonels in His Majesty's army, serving with any part of the Militia in this Province, shall command all Militia officers, whatever anything in said in part recited act to the contrary notwithstanding.

XVIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that every Militia man whose services may be accepted of in any volunteer corps, now or hereafter to be raised, shall be exempted from serving as a Militia man under this or the before mentioned act whilst he shall belong to any such corps as aforesaid; and also that every person serving in any flank company shall not be liable to any personal arrest on any civil process, or to serve as a juror, or to perform duty as a town or parish officer or statute laborer on the highways during the time he shall continue in such flank companies; any law to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

XIX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that any non-commissioned officer or private Militia man, who in any engagement with an enemy, or by an accident or casualty which may occur while on or performing any duty in actual service, shall be killed and shall leave a widow or child or children lawfully begotten, his said widow shall be entitled to receive during her widowhood, and in case of the death of such widow then the eldest child or guardian, for the use of the child or children of such non-commissioned officer or private Militia man until the youngest thereof shall have attained the age of sixteen years, an annuity of five pounds lawful money of this Province, and also that every non-commissioned officer or private of Militia, who in any engagement with an enemy, or by any accident or casualty which may occur while on or performing any duty in actual service, shall be wounded or disabled so as to be rendered incapable of earning his livelihood, shall be allowed an annuity of nine pounds lawful money of this Province during the time he shall continue under such incapacity.

XX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that so much of an act passed in the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled: "An act to explain, amend and reduce to one act of Parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training of the Militia of this Province," as directs how Militia fines are to be disposed of; be and the same is hereby repealed.

XXI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that all sums of money arising from fines, forfeitures and penalties, shall as soon after the thirty-first day of December in every year as practicable, be transmitted by the magistrate or officer respectively receiving the same, to the Receiver General of this Province, to be disposed of as the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government shall direct to purposes only that shall respect the said Militia, and which shall be accounted for to the Crown, through the commissioners of His Majesty's treasury for the time being, as the Crown shall direct.

XXII. *Provided always* that this present Act shall continue and be in force until the first day of January next, and from thereon to the end of the then next ensuing session of the Legislature of this Province and no longer.

(From a printed copy of the Act in the Talbot papers.)

Captain J. B. Glegg to Colonel Thomas Talbot.

York, 12th March, 1812.

(Private.)

My Dear Sir,—I was favored with your letter a few days ago and availed myself of the first opportunity that Mr. Burwell gave me for presenting him to the General, who has in consequence of your introduction afforded him every facility in the accomplishment of his business. Agreeably to your request I send you a few of the supplementary Militia bills, which have just come from the press this morning. A circular letter will be immediately addressed to the officers commanding corps, calling upon them to explain distinctly to their officers and men its provisions. The General (Brock) received a letter from Nichol this morning, written, I believe, from the head of the lake, and he reports that in consequence of efforts made by Willcocks, Mallory and others to create apprehensions respecting the intended operation of the Militia bill, the young men of the country appear much alarmed, and *emigration* is already in their contemplation. This must surely either be a false alarm or intended merely as an electioneering trick by those notorious characters. The General's head is at present too much occupied with preparing the required official report of his parliamentary proceedings to think scarcely of anything else.

In a few days *l'abrégé d'un code d'instruction Militaire* will be thought of as applicable to the Provincial Militia. The moment it is completed you shall again hear from me. The last mail from below brought us His Excellency's speech to his House of Assembly, which, like all other compositions of that description, contains nothing but what we have all of us heard before. I fear Sir George will not be so fortunate in carrying his measures as his family expect—the (French) Canadians are not partial to innovations of any kind. They are stubborn dogs and are only to be moved by *la force majeure*. The Glengarry company seems to engross the whole of their attention, and is now commenced in good earnest. Colonel Baynes, the Adjutant General, is to be the Colonel, and to ensure its success in the Holy Wars a priest is already appointed. As they look to *our acres* as inducements for enlistments, the patronage of two companies is given to General Brock, who has offered these companies to some of his young friends. Instructions are received for putting all the forts and defences in the Province in the best order. Captain Vigoreux is to have charge of the projected works from York to Fort Erie, and assistant engineers are already named for each post. Captain Dixon is gone to Amherstburg to superintend the works at that post and St. Joseph's. In a few weeks we

shall commence our grand plan of fortification for this post, and the marine department will not be idle. Mr. Fish being just returned from Albany with a master-builder and party of shipwrights, we are promised one of the finest schooners that has ever appeared on this lake. I send you a Montreal paper which contains a well written reply or rather commentary on the flowery speech of Governor Gerry. It is estimated by our *Peripatetic Philosopher* a production of considerable merit. I rather think it was brought very lately from the States by one of Sir George's family, and it is not improbable but it came from some person near our minister.

The very communicative temper of our friend Nichol will, there is no doubt, ere this arrives, have put you in full possession of the éclat that his name or rather his imprisonment has created. The Burdett business is a mere farce when compared to it. *Badinage a part* he has been most infamously treated, and I sincerely hope redress may be obtained for him. He may with truth exclaim, in the words of the celebrated Lord Chatham, (affair of Wilkes in 1770,) "that an outrage has been committed which struck at everything dear and sacred to the liberty of Englishmen." I can make every allowance for his indignant feelings, tho' I sincerely regret his having made such a personal attack upon Goff and Rogers the day before he left York, as it has produced an address which subjects his *best friend* (i. e., General Brock), to trouble which he ought to have been avoided.

The General enters warmly into his hard case, and was not to be dictated to by such gentry, nor was he to be humbugged by the representations of the attack having taken place in the "Speaker's apartments." He was well aware that it happened *at Jordan's*, and declined interfering in the squabbles of a tavern. I think it is probable that we shall pay you an early visit; allow me, in the meantime, to make an unconditional offer of my services. Mr. Burwell will be the bearer of a few cuttings of our best gooseberry trees, tho' I fear, from Mr. Hunter's* report, that the season is not favorable to them. He says a month hence some good might be expected from them. The General and Mr. Secretary Brock desire to be remembered.

P. S.—The Nichol cause has given a terrible shock to your learned friend,† who, I understand, declares he has done more harm by discussing the *question* than he *can do good* if he lives 100 years ! ! !

(From the Talbot Papers.)

*Talbot's confidential servant. †Probably Chief Justice Scott.

Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Thomas Talbot.

(Undated, probably written early in March, 1812.)

My Dear Colonel,—Ostrander, one of the Davis party, has just called and paid his fees. I have told him that he must positively go to you before he takes up his lot. He will deliver you this letter, which encloses extracts of my letters to the Adjutant General and to Captain Glegg. I have exhibited seven charges against Rapalje, one of which for asserting and persisting in it that I had said no American could be a loyal subject: another for attempting to call out his company after he had been informed that he was no longer to command it, in direct and open defiance of his commanding officer; another for propagating a story that I had been the cause of turning him and Anderson out of the Militia. You know how foul a lie that is! And another for telling me a downright falsehood.

I shall, by next opportunity, send you a correct copy of the charges. Mr. Joe Ryerson is a sly old fox, but I have now taken the right method to unkennel him. I am determined to ferret him out, and that the exposure of this band of backbiters and slanderers shall be complete.

I send you the last papers I received. I expect Steele back this evening, and if an opportunity offers afterwards I shall send all the news.

God bless you, my dear Colonel.

N. B.—The Henry mentioned in the paper* is the Irish renegado that McGillivray and the Furr Gentry in Montreal wanted to thrust upon us here as a judge. I have no doubt the correspondence is genuine, but I am not disposed to think that either the Govenment or Sir James (Craig) can be fairly blamed.

R. N.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

*The well-known John Henry.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel Nichol to the Adjutant General, Enclosed in the Foregoing Letter.

While, however, I am using the utmost exertions and discretion to carry into full effect the instructions of His Honor Major-General Brock, I shall require the countenance and support of the Executive Government to enable me to check those habits of insubordination, which I am sorry to say have been prevalent in this part of the Province.

I do not mean to attach the smallest blame to the men—on the

contrary they are well disposed—but some of the ancient officers have conducted themselves in such a manner as to render it imperative on me to exhibit charges against them, which are enclosed, and which will I trust appear to His Honor, Major-General Brock, of sufficient consequence to induce him to order a court of enquiry to investigate the conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Ryerson, Capt. Rapelje and myself.

I assure you it is with the greatest reluctance that I trouble the Government on this occasion, but the circumstances are such as to leave me no option. His Honor Major-General Brock, having been pleased to confer on me an office of high trust and responsibility, requiring both prudence, zeal and sound discretion in the exercise of it, and great integrity of character and conduct, I feel I should be wanting, both in duty to the Government and respect to myself, should I suffer my authority to be invaded and my character to be aspersed without a prompt endeavor on my part to vindicate and defend both.

Whenever it shall please His Honor to think that my remaining in my present situation will be prejudicial to the public interest, I shall, without a murmur, obey his order to retire from it; but while I retain an office of such high trust and responsibility I am determined to perform without shrinking and to the best of my abilities all the duties which are attached to it, so that when I yield up my command to a successor I may deliver over to him a well regulated regiment and not an unruly mob.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel Nichol to Captain J. B. Glegg.

It is my wish that the General may perfectly understand the motives which have induced me to prefer these charges, and I beg leave to assure him through you that they are entirely of a public nature. Public considerations alone have been my motives, for I feel that while these reports are circulated by Rapalje and Ryerson uncontradicted they will be believed, and consequently will render it impossible for me to be of the smallest service to the Government or country at the head of the Second Regiment of Norfolk Militia.

It is a well known fact that almost ever since the first establishment of a Militia in this country, it has been little better than a legalized mob; the officers without respectability, without intelligence and without authority, and the men without any idea of subordination. Now, Sir, I am desirous of putting an end to such a state of things in my part of the country. My wish is to *command* a *regiment* and *not to be* the *leader* of a mob. To enable me

to reform abuses and to bring both officers and men into those habits of regularity and subordination so necessary in all military service, I shall have occasion for all the popularity and influence over public opinion that I possess, and had I ten times more it would not be too much, and therefore I do conceive it my duty to resist and punish on the threshold every attempt of my immediate officers to weaken or destroy these. You know well, Sir, that in a Militia, composed as ours is of independent yeomanry, it would be both impolitic and useless to attempt to introduce the strict discipline of the line. They must in a great measure be governed by opinion; just and fair conduct and a conciliatory disposition on the part of their commanding officer will do much, and this was the line of conduct I had marked out for myself, but if before the regiment is organized, which is composed almost entirely of native Americans, and before I assume any command, the officers appointed to serve under me circulate such reports and assertions are not immediately investigated and *proved to be unfounded*, I feel that I cannot, with justice to the Government and respect to myself, remain in the command.

I have no hesitation in denying most unequivocally the truth of all and every one of the reports circulated, and my only wish is to have a *public* opportunity of vindicating my character from such infamous and foul aspersions.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

H. Bostwick to R. Nichol.

Sir,—Having heard that it is currently reported that you have made use of the following expression in my presence, that is:—"That no American could be a loyal subject:" and conceiving that the report is circulated for the purpose of influencing the Minds of the Electors in this riding at the approaching election to your prejudice, I think it but justice to you, positively and unequivocally, to declare that I never heard you express yourself to that effect: nor did I ever hear any language made use of by you which could possibly bear that construction or anything like it: and I may further add that I have frequently heard you deprecate every system of exclusion as it respects official situations in this Province, and your conviction that it would be sound policy in the Government to permit emigrants from the United States to participate in the different offices of honor and emolument in this Province, as it

would in your opinion effectually tend to rivet their attachment to this Government and dispel any ill-grounded jealousies. You are at liberty to give what publicity you may think proper to this letter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

H. BOSTWICK.

Woodhouse, 31st March, 1812.

To R. Nichol, Esq.

(From a printed handbill in the Talbot Papers.)

(Prideaux Selby?) to Colonel Talbot. (Signature Torn off.)

YORK, 4th April, 1812.

(An Extract.)

We have nothing new in politics but what you will see in the newspapers I herewith send. Mr. Henry* was a particular acquaintance of mine and the last person I would have suspected of such a villainous act—but alas, poor human nature!

(From the Talbot Papers.)

*John Henry, who had recently sold copies of his correspondence with Mr. Ryland to the American Government.

Major-General Brock to Colonel Talbot.

YORK, April 20, 1812.

(An Extract.)

It is impossible to say how the Government will view the embargo. I imagine they will allow it to operate quietly, to the ruin of the sorry politicians who gave it birth. The Duke of Northumberland writes to Selby* that strong reinforcements are ordered to this country. The public papers mention the same thing, but I hear nothing on the subject officially. Governor Gore has been actively and successfully employed in the service of his friends. Claus and Givins have both an increase to their salaries: Cartwright 3,000 additional acres, &c., &c. Mrs. Gore was very ill: Halton thought in imminent danger. The Prince Regent has surprised the world and disgusted his old friends. I hope Lord Wellington will not be sacrificed. He cannot expect the unbounded support he was wont to receive from the Marquis†.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

*Prideaux Selby, Receiver General of Upper Canada. †The Marquis of Wellesley, his brother.

Colonel Robert Nichol to Major George C. Salmon, 2nd Norfolk Militia.

NIAGARA, June 28, 1812.
2 P. M.

DEAR SALMON,—We have at last received the printed intelligence of the declaration of war, and are now at work throwing up batteries to attack the fort at Niagara. Our fire will commence to-morrow morning early, and I hope that before dinner-time we shall give a good account of it. Exert yourself, therefore, to carry into effect the General's instructions, for your assistance may be required on very short notice.

Send this, after showing it to Lieut.-Colonel Ryerson, to Colonel Talbot, and at the same time enclose copies of the General Orders enclosed to you by this opportunity*.

EXTRACT FROM A GENERAL ORDER ISSUED JUNE 28th.

Colonel Talbot is appointed to the command of the Militia in the London District, and will be pointed in his directions to the Militia of Oxford and Middlesex.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

**Vide* General Order in part I., pp. 85-6.

Return of Fifth Lincoln Militia, 3rd July, 1812.

5th Lincoln Militia.	Capts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Sergts.	Rank and File.
Captain Samuel Hatt's flank company	1	1	1	2	72
Captain James Durand's flank company	1	1	1	2	72
Captain Jacob A. Ball's company	1	1		3	22
Captain John D. Servos's company	1	1	1	3	25

State of the Fourth Division,

UNDER COLONEL WM. CLAUS, STATIONED AT FORT GEORGE, 7th JULY, 1812.

Company or Corps.	Capts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Sergts.	Rank and File.
Captain James Crooks's flank company	1	1	2	3	62
Captain John McEwen's flank company	1	1	2	3	67
Captain Lyon's rifle company	1	1	1	2	24
Captain A. Nelles's flank company	1	1	1	3	77
Captain W. Crooks's flank company	1	1	2	3	72

State of the Third Division,

CAPTAIN P. L. CHAMBERS, 41st REGT., STATIONED AT QUEENSTON, 7th JULY, 1812.

	Capts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Sergts.	Rank and File.
41st Regiment	1	1	2	3	100
Militia Dragoons	1			1	3
Lincoln Artillery	1			1	12
Hatt's flank company	1	1	1	3	63
Applegarth's flank company	1	1		3	45
Chisholm's flank company	1	1	1	2	34
Durand's flank company	1		1	2	66

Major-General Brock to Colonel Talbot.

MONDAY, 7th September, (1812.)

I returned yesterday from Kingston. At twelve to-morrow hostilities are to re-commence. Madison must be mad, or so deeply involved in Bonaparte politics that he cannot recede. I have a letter from Isaac Todd from New York, dated the 21st August: a determination to compel Government to make peace prevails.

The enemy is most active on his line opposite. An attack with his artillery will probably commence in a few days. He is strong in numbers. The prodigious quantity of ammunition and provisions, which the cessation of hostilities have enabled him to collect, give him an advantage he would not easily have acquired otherwise. I wish at this moment to assemble as large a force as possible. Lieut. Bird encourages me to expect two or three hundred men from the district under your command. Do what you are able in that respect, sending to let me know the number who are likely to volunteer their services, that arrangements may be made for their reception.

You cannot send a better captain than Bostwick. I cannot think a force at Long Point at this time necessary. We have arms in tolerable plenty.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Minutes of Council Held at Buffalo.

September 8th, 1812.

Council opened and the War-Chief Little Billy spoke: First a compliment to the agent: thanks to the Great Spirit for health and for bringing them together: is glad that the chiefs from a distance are present: prepared to attend a protracted council, &c.

BROTHER (addressing himself to the agent),—You recollect after we were collected as a body you made a communication to us upon which we then deliberated; you sent us a letter from the President. This gave us a new subject for our deliberation, and now we come forward to reply to that communication:

BROTHER,—At that council at the village you told us you should have further to say. We considered this council important. We, the Senecas, took up the business separately. * * * * We are now prepared to give an answer.

BROTHER,—You must be sensible; we have been for a number of years in the path of peace. Our exertions have been great to keep in this path. We tried to keep peace. We thought the Western Indians would listen to our voice, but they would not. Perhaps you are to blame. Your commander gave up Detroit before the Western Indians had time to decide.

BROTHER,—I have spoken of the pains we have taken to preserve peace. Your agents have done the same, but in vain. We went to Grand River (in Canada) lately to keep peace, but in vain. The path of peace is broken in every part. We find no place to flee to where there is peace now. Upon this subject we have been deliberating.

BROTHER,—I have said we have come with all the others to seek the path of peace. We find there is no path left for us but between us and the United States. It is cut off in every other direction. Agreeably to your communication we, the Senecas, shall now prepare to defend ourselves against the common enemy. It is true we have friends on the other side, but we are exposed to the blow as well as you are, and must prepare to meet it. We know of no other way to preserve peace but to rise from our seats and defend our own firesides, our wives and our children. We hope you will not ask us to cross over. Those that go over must go at their own risk. If our men go they must go voluntarily. We wish to act only on the defensive. Part of the Onondagas and Cayugas, who live amongst us, agree with us. We volunteer; we must act under our own chiefs; according to our own customs; be at liberty to take our own course in fighting; we cannot conform to your discipline in camp. So far as we can we will conform to your customs. When you see a boat with a white flag, you do not fire; we shall do the same; but when a boat comes over without one, we shall then begin the attack.

BROTHERS,—We have no secrets: let the enemy know what we have done. Our council on the other side began privately; we are willing our position should be known. The deputation we sent over after war was declared were not permitted to go up the

country. We did not have an interview with our Canada friends: we were told that friendship was at an end. We hope if you take Canada we should enjoy our land on that side.

BROTHER,—If the British should come over and make a stand, we, that are on the lines, want you to point out a place where our women and children can retreat to, as you own the country to the eastward: for it will be necesaary that our women and children should have refuge, and what provision will be made for the women and children of those who fall?

BROTHER,—You have told us you were strong and could conquer them. You have said they would not fight you; that you had friends among them, &c. How shall we distinguish between friends and enemies?

BROTHER,—We volunteer for this service. We do not wish you to place us in forts where we cannot act. You know what took place at Detroit: an army was sold. We wish not to be sold.

(From the History of Buffalo by William Ketchum, Vol. II., pp. 422-4)

Address of Six Nations, Resident in New York, to the President of the United States.

BROTHER,—The undersigned chiefs and warriors of the Oneida, Onondaga, Stockbridge and Tuscarora tribes of Indians, as far west as Tonawanda, regularly deputed by our respective tribes, have this day lighted up a council fire at Onondaga, the ancient council ground of the Six Confederate Nations of Indians, and have invited our white brothers of Onondaga to meet with us and hear what we have to say.

BROTHER,—We see that the tomahawk is lifted up between you and the British. We are uneasy about it, and therefore we have met and determined to tell you our minds about it:

BROTHER,—At the close of the late war Gen. Washington told us to be sober and attend to agriculture and to refain from shedding blood: this advice was good. Our good prophet of the Seneca tribe, who is now with us in this council, has given us the same advice, and our tribe have entered into a league to follow that advice. We wish to hold fast to it and not take any part in the contest between your people and the British.

We have been repeatedly told by your agents that it was your wish that we should remain neutral, and therefore we are much surprised and disappointed in the council, lately held at Buffalo Creek, at being invited to take up the tomahawk.

BROTHER,—You must not suppose from what we have now

told you that we are unfriendly to you or your people. We are your decided friends. We reside among your people. Your friends are our friends, and your enemies are our enemies.

In the former war between your people and the British, some of us took up the tomahawk on their side. When the peace took place we buried it deep, and it shall never be raised against you and your people.

BROTHER,—We are few in number and can do but little, but our hearts are good and we are willing to do what we can, and if you want our assistance say so and we will go with your people to battle.

We are anxious to know your wishes respecting us as soon as possible, because some of our young men are uneasy, and we fear they may disperse among different tribes and be hostile to you. Pray direct your communication to the chiefs and warriors of the respective tribes, to be left at Onondaga Postoffice.

Onondaga, Sept. 28th, 1812.

Signed by sixteen chiefs and warriors.

We, the subscribers, do certify that we were present at the council hereinbefore mentioned; that the same is as interpreted, and that the same was subscribed in our presence.

Onondaga, Sept. 29th, 1812.

EPHRAIM WEBSTER,
Interpreter and agent
for the Onondagas.

JOSEPH HOPPER,
Clerk of Onondaga County.

THADDEUS PATCHIN,
Captain of Artillery.

PULASKI KING,
Justice of the Peace.

(From Ketchum's History of Buffalo, Vol. II., p. 424.)

Lieut.-Colonel Henry Bostwick, Oxford Militia, to Colonel Talbot.

OXFORD, 10th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—Mr. Bird arrived at this place last evening from Fort George, and informed me that he is taking instructions to you to send to Niagara all the Militia of the district without delay. Should that be the case I should be glad to receive the orders from you as

soon as possible, and shall hold myself in readiness, and shall prepare the Militia of this regiment also to be in readiness in the meantime.

I sent Major Tewsley on with a detachment of Militia day before yesterday. I understood he was joined in Burford by more than I had reason to expect, so that his force will consist of about 100 men. I shall send Mr. Brigham on tomorrow with his riflemen. His company will consist of about thirty men. I think most of them will be furnished with good rifles.

I have not heard whether the Norfolk Militia have moved towards Niagara or not. I sent but one captain and three subalterns with Major Tewsley. My directions to him were to take eighty rank and file. I am, however, very glad to hear it is more.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Captain Daniel Springer, 1st Middlesex Militia, to Colonel Talbot.

DELAWARE, 10th Sept., 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Agreeable to your request, I delivered your letter to Colonel Nichol at Detroit, and he was much engaged with public business and did not write, but told me he would set off for Niagara on the eighth instant. I found persons in Detroit of respectability, who were willing to give the depositions respecting Andrew Westbrook while at Detroit. The purport is that he requested fifty men from General Hull to return back to Delaware and take his property, and that Simon Z. Watson was to be one of the number. General Hull doubted his integrity; asked the opinion of those persons, as they were acquainted with him, what kind of a man he was, whether or not he could be entrusted, and he was in Detroit at the time of the capitulation, and as there were no magistrates appointed to take depositions I could not get them, but Colonel Nichol promised that they would be taken, and would get them forwarded on to Niagara.

The day before I returned to Delaware Mr. B. Brewster Brigham had assembled my company of militia and told the men that he had orders from Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick to take a certain number from among them to fill up his rifle company, and if not that he should select a certain number of musquet men. I asked him by what authority he interfered with my company. He made answer, by orders of Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick. I told him if such measures were legal that I was not acquainted with it, and that I would acquaint Your Honor with the proceedings, and yesterday he marched them off, and likewise told the men if they did not go

that Colonel Bostwick would fetch them with a file of men. What number he took I cannot say. Mr. Dingman can perhaps give you some account, as he saw the men.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Chief Justice Thomas Scott to Colonel Talbot.

York, September 12th, 1812.

My Dear Sir,—I return you my sincere thanks for your letter of the 29th of August. The loss which you have sustained I most truly regret. It is certainly no reasonable consolation, yet we all take some degree of comfort to ourselves when we find we are not the only sufferers, and that others share with us in our misfortune. The rains here have done great mischief where we have no enemy but the season to contend with.

I consider myself equally interested with you in the return of our worthy friend, the Governor. I have not heard from him since I wrote to you last. He was then in great hopes of returning soon amongst us; but, alas, in this world what are hopes? Mrs. G. (ore) was much better. They both have found every attention from common friends, but they both wish to return. The Prince Regent, in the most familiar manner, acknowledged Mr. Gore as an old acquaintance, and put him in mind of their having served together.

I had yesterday a letter from General Brock, who seems to expect that matters would be soon brought to a crisis at Niagara. Since the beginning of the troubles (for so I must call them) the General never was so strong. We expect a few—and but a few—regular troops to this place, under, it is said, Colonel Shortt. Major Fuller has been perfectly deranged. Allan, your old acquaintance as major, has, in effect, the command of the garrison, and has acted with much judgment and discretion. There is an ugly report of a frigate, *La Guerriere*, having been taken by the *Constitution*, an American ship. Our vessel, it is said, was so much battered that she sank the moment she was taken; but this is American news conveyed to Niagara. It may be a lie, but I am somewhat apprehensive of its truth.

They (the Americans) have taken off the roof from their fort at Niagara, and have erected a battery on the stone works which remain. Numbers are leaving the American camp, but whether from a feint or by desertion we do not know. It is said they are sickly, &c., &c., but we ought not to be too credulous. An American vessel was taken in the lake near us but, alas, our men of war were not good calculators, for upon examination it was found that hostilities had ceased and were not to be renewed till two days later.

It is strongly reported that part of the militia at Albany have refused to march out of their State, and that blood has been spilt on the occasion. The repeal of the Orders in Council by Great Britain ought to satisfy the American Government, but the leaders will not be satisfied; but it is said that the Federalists exclaim much against the Government for under such circumstances continuing the war, and that this was the way at Albany. But enough, and more than enough. Should a defeat on the part of our enemies take place at Niagara, we have much to hope for; if otherwise, much to fear. Farewell.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

(James Brock ?) To Colonel Talbot.

FORT GEORGE, 12th Sept., 1812.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—In obedience to the commands of His Honor the President, I have to announce to you his desire that you will be pleased to recall the companies of militia which you may have detached in consequence of his recent orders to that effect, and it is further his intentions to send back the flank companies of Oxford lately arrived in the vicinity, the information which he has received making it unnecessary, in his opinion, to add to the number of militia before called out for the defence of this frontier.

The General visited Fort Erie yesterday, and returned to-day, having obtained from a source on which he relies the following information:

That the force on the opposite side between the Rock and Fort Niagara amounted to about 3,000; that they were much in fear of an attack from us; the militia in a bad state of health and much discontented. Five of the Eastern States and one Southern had refused to support the general Government. That there remained no doubt in the minds of the Federalists that Mr. Madison would be ousted out and peace restored. It was the opinion of the Federalists opposite that we ought not to make any attack. General Dearborn had only 1,500 men at Albany. DeWitt Clinton would be brought in as President, and that a second attempt to raise funds by an issue of paper having failed, the troops were not paid, and were becoming clamorous, &c., &c., &c. I believe that I have not omitted anything that I was charged to communicate to you from His Honor the President. I may now therefore add a word or two from myself, and first let me congratulate you on not having been torn or driven away from your household gods, (and goddesses, if any you have,) and I assure you that I feel a friendly and anxious

desire that you should all remain quietly under the same roof, undisturbed by Hulls or Watsons* or any of their wicked works.

The General wished to send some English newspapers he brought up from Kingston a few days ago, but they cannot be found. The account of your brother's capture of the *Ricoli*† was in one of them, but *that* you must have seen long since, therefore there is the less to regret in their not being forthcoming.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

*The Deputy Provincial Land Surveyor, Simon Zelotes Watson, who joined General Hull, a personal enemy of Colonel Talbot. *Vide* part I., p. 146. †A French ship of the line taken by the *Victorious*, Captain John Talbot, 23rd February, 1812.

HUNTINGTON, PA., Sept. 17.

On Monday, the 7th inst., the *Huntington Volunteers*, commanded by Captain *R. Allison*, marched from this place for Niagara. They were escorted out of town by Captain Rham's cavalry and the largest collection of citizens that has ever been assembled on any occasion in this place.

Captain Canan's and Vandeventer's companies marched from Alexandria for Meadville on Friday last.

GREENSBURG, PA., Sept. 17.

Arrived here on the 13th inst. four companies of volunteer infantry and riflemen from Franklin county. On the morning of the 14th they proceeded on their march for Meadville. On Wednesday, the 16th, three companies of volunteer infantry and riflemen from Somerset county and a company of riflemen from Cambria county marched through this place. They are also destined for Meadville.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Copies of the foregoing documents were not obtained in time to be included in their proper chronological order in Part I. of this Series. The majority of them are derived from the papers of the late Colonel Talbot, for permission to use which the best thanks of the Society are due to James H. Coyne, Esq., of St. Thomas, President of the Ontario Historical Society.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 1st October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The Major-General commanding forbids the practice of individuals firing in the Swamp or any other place within the limits and neighborhood of the Garrison.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost (No. 10.)

DOWNING STREET, 1st October, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor of laying before the Prince Regent your despatches of the dates and numbers specified in the margin, detailing the operations to which the declaration of war against this country on the part of the United States and subsequent invasion of Upper Canada by an American army had given rise, and the measures to which M. General Brock had resorted for the protection of that Province. The judicious endeavors of that officer to awaken the Legislature of the Province to a sense of their duty and their interest, the promptitude with which he dissolved that assembly upon finding it so criminally indifferent to the fate of Upper Canada as not to invest him with the authority necessary for its preservation, and his determination under such circumstances to proclaim and enforce martial law, are proofs at once of his judgment and decision, which have not escaped the observation of His Royal Highness, and I have it in command to desire that you will convey to M. General Brock His Royal Highness's entire approbation as well of the measures to which I have more particularly referred, as of the general zeal and ability which he has uniformly displayed since the commencement of the war in a situation which from peculiar circumstances had become one of considerable embarrassment. Although His Royal Highness deeply regrets that any of His Majesty's subjects should have been capable of being influenced by the delusive promises held out in the proclamation of an invading enemy, yet it is no inconsiderable satisfaction to His Royal Highness to observe that that unworthy feeling is confined to a part of Upper Canada alone.

No. 39, 30 July, 1812
3, 17 August.
4, 24 August.

It is impossible not to be aware of the restraint which such a disposition must necessarily impose upon General Brock's military operations, but His Royal Highness trusts that the decisive measures

which General Brock has taken will curb the efforts of the disaffected, and that the success of His Majesty's arms in the capture of Michilimackinac, the determined defence of Amherstburg, and above all the successful result of those exertions which you state yourself and General Brock to be making for the relief of the fort, will counteract any effort which the unrestricted advance of General Hull may have at first had upon the timid and disaffected.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 207.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 2nd October, 1812.

D. G. Order.

Major-General Sheaffe having noticed in the reports frequent inattentions of the visiting rounds, in not visiting the different batteries established along the lake, he trusts that in future they will be more exact in their performance of this essential part of their duty.

No. 2.—Until further orders one-third of the troops off duty will sleep in their clothes, fully accoutred and ready to turn out at a moment's warning.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

Brigadier-General Smyth to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Oct. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 30th Sept., dated at Lewiston. The detachments of Colonel Winder and Colonel Parker have arrived. They are recruits without clothing and with little instruction. Neither of them have medicine chests. Colonel Winder's detachment is already encamped on an excellent piece of ground for exercise, where Colonel Parker's will join it to-day. Colonel Milton's detachment will also arrive to-day, and within a week I expect the other detachments. I have taken quarters at this place, and propose to devote six hours daily to their instruction in discipline and evolutions. The delay of a part until the whole arrive cannot possibly be injurious, and any order I may receive will be obeyed with alacrity.

There has been a mutiny in the 5th, and a general court martial has become necessary. Should you deem it proper to order one to be held at this camp, Colonel Parker might preside and the other members be detached by my Brigade Major.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 69.)

Captain Jesse D. Elliott to Mr. Daniel Dobbins.

BLACK ROCK, Oct. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 13th ultimo, directed to Commodore Chauncey or the commanding officer on Lake Erie, I have received, together with its enclosure, a copy of your instructions from the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy, each of which, together with a copy of this letter, I have enclosed to him for his consideration.

It appears to me utterly impossible to build gunboats at Presqu' Isle. There is not a sufficient depth of water on the bar to get them into the lake. Should there be water the place is at all times open to the attacks of the enemy, and in all probability when ready for action ultimately will fall into the hands of the enemy and be a great annoyance to our forces building and repairing at this place. From a slight acquaintance I have with our side of the lake, and with what information I have obtained from persons who have long navigated it, I am under the impression Lake Erie has not a single harbor calculated to fit out a naval expedition; and the only one convenient I am at present at, which is between Squaw Island and the main immediately in the mouth of Niagara River. I have no further communication to make. Probably in a few days I shall be in possession of Commodore Chauncey's impressions, when you shall again hear from me.

(From History of the Battle of Lake Erie, by W. W. Dobbins, Erie, Pa., 1876, pp. 8-9.)

(From "The War," New York, 17th October, 1812.)

PLATTSBURG, Oct. 2.

Two chiefs of the Cognawaga Indians arrived at the head-quarters of General Bloomfield on Tuesday last. On Wednesday, attended by Colonel Clark of the 11th Regiment, they proceeded on to Greenbush. The *professed* object of their mission is pacific. They were with General Brock at the capture of Detroit.

General Louis of the St. Regis Indians, a firm and undeviating friend of the United States, and his son, have been in this village for several weeks. The St. Regis Indians are disposed to remain neutral in the present contest, but what effect the British influence and British success may have upon them we know not. Indians generally endeavor to keep on the strongest side, but in estimating the strength of the contending parties and their relative ability to harm them, they do not refer to our census as a criterion by which to estimate our strength, the most forcible argument, and the one

most sure to carry conviction to their minds is a force sufficient to win the day, and they repair to the standard of the victor as a shelter from danger, without looking to future consequences.

(File in Buffalo Historical Society Library.)

General Dearborn to General Van Rensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Oct. 4, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 27th by Captain Dox, has been received. Before this reaches you, I trust the reinforcements will generally have arrived. I have made every effort in my power to have sufficient quantities of ammunition, medicine, arms, &c., forwarded, but not with all the success I could have wished. I shall continue to send on until I am satisfied there will be an ample supply. It rests with you to determine the proper time for acting offensively. You will, however, perceive the expediency of consulting the principal officers.

I am apprehensive that the enemy might attempt a stroke at the naval armament preparing at Sackett's Harbor, and it being of the first importance that no interruption should retard the progress of those operations, I doubt the expediency of withdrawing any part of the force from that place at present. When the troops destined for your post shall have arrived, your total force must exceed 7000 men, which I presume will be sufficient for all contemplated purposes.

I confidently calculate on a co-operation by way of Detroit, and on important aid from the naval department. It will be advisable to strike at Kingston from Sackett's Harbor or its vicinity, or at least to attract the attention of the enemy in that direction, by such movement as will threaten a blow. If we should be so fortunate as to obtain the command of the lake, Kingston and the country about it may be taken possession of and all supplies in that direction may be cut off. You should have as many flat bottomed boats (and scows if possible) as will be sufficient to transport 5,000 men with field pieces and artillery horses at once, with the aid of such other vessels as can be readily procured.

The contractor should be reminded of the necessity of having a sufficient stock of provisions on hand for two months, exclusive of the current issues.

It will be proper that a correspondence by expresses be kept up between you and General Harrison, which will enable you to ascertain his movements; but if we should be fortunate enough to

command Lake Ontario we ought to possess ourselves of that part of Canada bordering on the lake, including the vicinity of Niagara, whether Harrison succeeds or not.

I enclose to you a copy of General Amherst's order at Fort Edward, on the 12th July, 1759. The authority must be respected by every British officer. It will be expedient for you to have such an order published, with such alterations only as the change in circumstances in a national view has rendered necessary, and it might be well to quote the authority referred to.

I have considered it fortunate to find such an order from so respectable a source. It is contained in the "Historical Journal of the Campaigns in North America in the years 1757, '58, '59 and '60, by Captain John Knox," published in England in 1769.

P. S.—I am just informed that General Harrison will be at Detroit by the 15th of this month by the farthest. Forts Harrison and Wayne have been relieved and the Indians dispersed.

NOTE.

The only General Order by General Amherst that seems likely to be referred to here is dated 12th June, 1759, and reads as follows:

"It is the General's orders that no scouting party or others in the army under his command shall (whatsoever opportunities they may have) scalp any women or children belonging to the enemy: they are to bring them away if they can: if not they are to leave them unhurt, and he is determined if the enemy should murder or scalp any women or children, who are subjects of the King of Great Britain, he will revenge it by the death of two men of the enemy for every woman or child murdered or scalped by them, whenever he has occasion."

Oliver L. Phelps and Others to Governor Tompkins.

SIR,—The last Buffalo *Gazette*, of the 29th ult., informs that General Harrison was on his way from Fort Wayne to Detroit on or about the 20th ult. with about 8,000 men, and that he had sent an express for General Wadsworth at Gayhoga, with about 3,000 Ohio volunteers, to join him at the river Rezin.

We are also informed that from the movements opposite Lewiston it was readily concluded *that General Brock had proceeded to the westward again to receive and sustain the attack on Canada in that quarter.*

This is a natural and a very military movement in him, for thus he hopes to keep open the communication to the west and thereby sustain the North West Company. It is the interest and

the immense profit (being from 120 to 140 per cent. per annum) which the North West Company derives from their establishment that give the chief and indeed the vast value of the Canadas to the British, and which they will make their utmost efforts to retain. Therefore the conquest of the Canadas will not be found that easy acquisition as at first supposed. The natural counterpart of General Brock's movement is that our troops on the Niagara River cross and follow him, and thus sustain General Harrison. We can't be so sluggish as to leave these troops inactive a second time with impunity. Indeed *we have not* the first time.

We conceive the fate and fortune of our country depends chiefly on the active employment of these troops from this to the first of November next. They are already restless for employment. But then they want a commander in whom they can confide. They have not confidence in the two Major-Generals now there. Your presence is essentially necessary, both to inspire confidence and to prevent the dissensions which may otherwise arise between the officers in the regular service and those of the militia. We presume that the able officers, the many military characters in and near New York, and the numerous militia in and within its vicinity, will conveniently spare you for a month or two from that section of the State.

We write you from motives of affection to our country and from our respect to you personally.

Oliver L. Phelps,
Freeman Atwater,
J. Howley.

To His Excellency Daniel D. Tompkins, or in his absence to His Excellency Henry Dearborn.

Canandaigua, 4th October, 1812.

P. S.—We are informed that a British armed vessel entered the mouth of the Genesee River on the 2nd inst. and cut out a sloop, (the *Lady Murray*) and the United States revenue cutter: that they landed about 80 men and demanded the warehouse to be opened to take out her sails and rigging, of which she was dismantled, as we suppose, by the collector of the port having been seized last fall for smuggling and afterwards bonded.

They destroyed no property and took none, but what was of use to them for marine purposes.

They appear to be determined to command the lakes. It is conjectured by some that Captain Wm. McKinstry of Penfield, the owner, was privy to it because the vessel was seized from him and was likely to be condemned, and because he was ordered out to

Niagara when he hesitated to go, wishing to have a force posted at the river.

There were three or four vessels taken four miles up the river to the upper landing a week or two before and dismantled, which the British did not offer to take. It is said the inhabitants had not a charge of powder to defend themselves.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 216-8, New York State Library.)

(From the National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., 20th October, 1812.)

Letter from an officer of the 13th Regiment to the Editors of the *New York Gazette:*

BATAVIA, October 4, 1812.

The day before yesterday the British sloop of war *Royal George* entered the mouth of the Genesee and landed about fifty men, under the pretence of searching for deserters. They plundered the inhabitants of every valuable article they could find and departed before the people could collect to resist them, taking with them two American vessels.

On the 29th ulto. a detachment of the 13th Regiment embarked in forty boats at Salt Point, Onondaga Lake, under command of Colonel Chrystie. It is presumed their place of destination is Niagara.

Letter to the Philadelphia *Aurora:*

PLATTSBURG, 11th October, 1812.

During the armistice the light troops attached to the 49th were detached to Upper Canada. I believe they have not returned. The British 41st is in the Upper Country altogether. The Canadian militia will not be so quiet as in the Revolution, as the British Government has gained over all the priests, who are very active in the cause of Church and King, and the impression made on the ignorant Canadians is very strong and full of prejudice against us.

Sir J. Johnson, whose family has been renowned as a leader of the Indians, has the charge of the whole of the Indian tribes of Lower Canada, and notwithstanding his advanced age has been active among the savages, and expeditions may be expected from these quarters now winter has set in.

(From file in the New York Society Library.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 5th October, 1812.

SIR,—Believing that an early consultation of general officers, commandants of corps and regiments on this frontier will promote the interest of the service, I have to request that you will be pleased to confer with Major-General Hall on the subject, and agree with him upon the earliest day possible, consistent with the business of the court martial and other indispensable duties, when I can have the pleasure of seeing you at Fort Niagara for the purpose above proposed.

Of the day agreed you will please to give me early notice.

P. S.—I have written to Major-General Hall to the same purpose.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 70.)

Lieut. Totten, U. S. Engineers, to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT NIAGARA, October 5th, 1812.

SIR,—I beg leave to lay before you the following observations on the works of this place:

The form of Fort Niagara, with the exception of east front, is irregular, being adapted to the brow of the banks, and all its faces, with the same exception, are only musket proof. Lying as it does, under the command of the English Fort George, no defence can be expected from it against a cannonade, and it might even be prudent for the greater security of the garrison, if such an event is to be apprehended, to cut down the pickets on the sides exposed. It will certainly be unwise to attempt making ourselves equal to the enemy in batteries, for we have but few pieces of ordnance and I believe no means of procuring any more. Such works would only cause a useless expense of time and labor. But if this post should be conceived (as I apprehend it will,) important to cover a landing on the English shore, to protect a retreat and to command the entrance of the river, we cannot too soon make the commencement of a considerable battery. I will make the necessary plans and a particular representation if you consider the object of sufficient importance and will honor me with a requisition.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 60.)

(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 14th October, 1812.)

CANANDAIGUA, October 6.

On Thursday night last a boat with forty men and a barge with thirty men, from the British brig *Royal George*, which lay off, came into the mouth of the Genesee River and cut away the fastenings of two vessels and towed them out without any opposition. One of them was a schooner, the *Lady Murray*, owned by Captain Wm. McKinstry of Penfield in this county, the other a small vessel used as a United States revenue cutter. The next evening the British boat returned to the store house of Mr. Spalding and required the sails and rigging belonging to the schooner, which had been dismantled. Finding they were in the store house they entered and took them. They were also about taking a barrel of whiskey, but on Mr. Spalding telling them it was private property and that he would give them two gallons to drink, they departed declaring that they wished to take nothing but vessels or such other property as would lessen our means of operating against them.

According to the information given by a man who deserted from the British boat on Thursday night, the *Royal George* left Newark four days previous with a view of taking out the above vessels, well knowing, it would seem, that we had no force there to prevent it.

On the preceding evening the *Royal George* had sent her boats into Irondequoit Bay, mistaking it for the river, and discovering some men fishing, hailed them. The fishermen, understanding they were British and in want of a pilot, extinguished their lights and made for the shore, whereupon the British fired on them and wounded one man in the arm. They pursued the fishermen a short distance in the woods and one of their sailors, finding himself on *terra firma*, deserted from them. He states that the captain of the *Royal George* intended to make another visit and endeavor to cut out some boats laying higher up the river. Some apprehensions are entertained for the boats lately sent from Oswego with arms and ammunition for our troops at Niagara.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 5th October, 1812.

D. G. Order.

Quartermaster Sergeant Pointer of the 49th Regiment is appointed to act as Barrack Master at Fort Erie, with an allowance of 1s. 6d. per day.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS,
Brigade Major.

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 5th October, 1812.

(No. 11.)

MY LORD,—I beg leave to call Your Lordship's attention to a subject of considerable importance, as connected with the safety of Upper Canada in our future contests with the United States of America.

In the correspondence which has passed between Major-General Brock and myself since the invasion of that Province, he has repeatedly represented to me, in the strongest terms, the great assistance he has derived from the services of the different Indian tribes settled in and near the Michigan Territory, and of the necessity of conciliating their future friendship as a barrier against any further attacks of the enemy in that quarter.

There is certainly great reason to believe, from the present animosity that appears to subsist amongst the various tribes of Indians inhabiting the country lying between the Ohio and the Mississippi against the Americans, that the Government of the United States have not been actuated by that spirit of justice and liberality towards them which it was their obvious policy to manifest. The Indians complain, and apparently not without reason, of continual encroachments upon their territory, which, by forcing them further into the western country diminish their means of subsistence, and by separating them from each other make it more difficult for them to unite in their common defence.

Without entering into the merits of these complaints on the part of the Indians, or the justice or policy of the American Government towards them, it must be obvious to Your Lordship from an inspection of the map of the country bordering upon the western territories of the United States how extremely important it is to the future security of Upper Canada that the Indians should retain

possession of the lands they now occupy, and thereby form, as long as we remain in friendship with them, a formidable barrier to any future attempts of America against His Majesty's possessions in that neighborhood.

The number of Indian warriors spread over the Michigan and adjoining territories cannot amount to less than from eight to ten thousand. Your Lordship will therefore immediately perceive the obstacles which a force of that amount and description would present to an enemy attempting to invade Upper Canada through Michigan, the only route they can take (whilst we retain command of the lakes) to penetrate into its western frontier, and the incalculable advantages that army would possess over us were those Indians to become our enemies.

The conduct which has been invariably pursued towards them and the treatment they have met with from America have, during the present contest, made them our friends and allies, and it remains for the consideration of His Majesty's Government how far it will be politic and prudent to keep them as such, by those stipulations in their behalf in our future negotiations with America which shall convince them that we have not been insensible of their services or unmindful to consult their interests.

There is reason to believe in consequence of the late transactions in the Upper Province, as well as of the predisposed state of the minds of the Indians for such an event, that a general war on their part has been kindled along the whole extent of the western frontier of the United States, which will greatly embarrass the American Government until a peace shall take place between the United States and Great Britain. In that event we might engage to make use of our influence to quiet and restrain the Indians, provided the Government of America will agree to such a boundary between the two territories as shall be thought reasonable, and will at the same time engage sacredly to respect it.

In throwing out these suggestions for Your Lordship's consideration, I may probably have been anticipated by General Brock's despatches to you upon the same subject. He appears to be deeply impressed with a sense of his obligations to the Indians for the services they have rendered him in the defence of Upper Canada, and of the necessity of conciliating their future friendship by the means I have pointed out. I shall therefore not intrude further upon Your Lordship's time, except to assure you that in my instructions to General Brock for repelling the attack upon Upper Canada I have invariably directed him cautiously to abstain from availing himself of the services of the Indians for any other purpose but that of the defence of the Province; to restrain and con-

trol their excesses by every means in his power, and to discourage whatever measures they might have in contemplation which might create irritation in the United States. Under these circumstances, which cannot but be known to the Government of the United States, I trust there will be the less difficulty in making these arrangements in behalf of the Indians whenever our former relations of amity with America shall be restored, which shall secure them to us as our allies in case their services should become necessary for the future defence of the Canadas.

P. S.—With the letter, a copy of which is enclosed, a copy of this despatch has been transmitted to Sir John Warren at Halifax, as I am informed by the public prints he has been appointed by His Majesty's Government to negotiate a peace with America.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 265.)

Garrison Order.

FORT GEORGE, 6th October, 1812.

Parole.—Argo. C. S.—Jason.

* * * * * * * *

No. 2. Until further orders the regular troops and militia force in this command will be under arms in their quarters at first break of day, and are not to be dismissed till broad daylight and distant objects can be distinctly seen. The guards are to turn out and mount as usual, and the strictest attention is enjoined to the order, requiring one-third of the men in quarters to be clothed and accoutred during the night, with their arms at hand in readiness to turn out at a moment's warning, which commanders of corps and detachments are directed to regulate in such a manner as to avoid, as much as may be practicable including men for guard in that number.

* * * * * * * *

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 6th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Apprehending that my letter of yesterday, on the subject of the proposed conference at Niagara, may not have been sufficiently explicit, I deem it necessary to add that my intention was

that Major-General Hall, yourself and the *Commandants of the several regiments of the United States troops* should attend the conference. You will please to make the necessary communications to the gentlemen intended.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 71.)

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 6, 1812.

. . . . . .

Brock is now probably watching Harrison, and I fear our neighbors have got some good news. The broad flag was flying all the day before yesterday at Fort Erie—that's all I know. Four days ago the *Royal George* cut out a vessel, the *Lady Murray*, from the mouth of the Genesee River; of this we have official information. Don't start if within three mails I date "Canada." I tell you, we are going to work.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 243.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 6th October, 1812.

MORE TROOPS ARRIVED.

Since our last there have been constantly arriving at different points on these frontiers regular troops, volunteer companies, horse, artillery and infantry. They make a fine appearance. As to their force or destination we deem it improper *at this time* to publish either. Should any event of importance transpire on these frontiers previous to our next paper we shall issue an extra sheet.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 8th October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed as volunteers in His Majesty's regular forces, from the periods specified opposite their respective names. They will continue to do duty with the 41st Regiment until further orders.

Henry Procter, Gent,. 1st July, 1812.
Alex. Wilkinson, 1 do, 1812.
——— Richardson, 9 do, 1812.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

Memorandum for District Orders.

At the several posts where hospitals are established surgeons will receive from the commissariat stores as much fresh meat as they may consider necessary for the use of the sick. The remainder of the rations due to the sick will be left in store and paid for to the surgeons at the contract prices. For the future a half ounce of salt will be added to rations of fresh meat.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

Brigade Major.

(*About 8th October, 1812.*)

General Van Rensselaer to General Dearborn.

H. Q., LEWISTON, Oct. 8th, 1812.

SIR,—It is now nearly three months since, in obedience to the call of my country, I took the field to form and discipline an army and to shape and direct a campaign on the very extensive frontiers of this State. This service, even in prospect, presented innumerable difficulties and embarrassments. Thus far I have met them in that manner which my own mind justifies and I trust my country will approve. After a general review of our frontiers my own judgment did not suffer me to doubt that the Niagara River must be the scene of our decisive operations, and I selected this neighborhood as the place best adapted to our measures, and here encamped.

Well knowing that the duties of the station which you hold were complicated and embarrassing, I have patiently endured much that the affairs of my department might embarrass you the less The crisis through which I have passed for the last month has been trying indeed ; particulars upon this occasion are unnecessary, but the result has justified my measures and I am satisfied. Yet I am well aware that any merit which may be attached to this negative service will not satisfy the expectations of my country ; to have barely escaped disaster will not be thought enough. The object of the war remains unaccomplished, a new crisis is opening, and as in it you, Sir, as well as I, have a deep stake of responsibility, I shall with great freedom state to you a number of facts, submitting my opinions connected with them, and with deference leave the general conclusion to your own judgment, and as the honor and interest of the United States, your own character and mine are most intimately connected in the subject of deliberation, I hope and trust it may receive all the attention which its importance merits.

The United States declared the war. One army has surrendered in disgrace and another has but little more than escaped the reiteration of the blow. The national character is degraded, and the disgrace will remain, corroding the public feeling and spirit until another campaign, unless it be instantly wiped away by a brilliant close of this. A detail of particulars is needless. You, Sir, know service. Our best troops are raw, many of them dejected by the distress their families suffer by their absence, and many have not necessary clothing. We are in a cold country, the season is far advanced and unusually inclement; we are half the time deluged by rain. The blow must be struck soon or all the toil and expense of the campaign will go for nothing, and worse than nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonor. With my present force it would be rash to attempt offensive operations. I have only 1,700 effective men of the militia on the whole line. The regular troops have nearly all arrived in the vicinity of Buffalo except Schuyler's regiment. The batteaux have not arrived, and I learn that they very narrowly escaped the *Royal George* at the mouth of the Genesee River, where she had just cut out the schooner *Lady Murray* and a revenue cutter. But two or three companies of the Pennsylvania troops had arrived at Buffalo when I received my last advice from there.

Under these circumstances and the impressions necessarily resulting from them, I am adopting decisive measures for closing the fall campaign, but shall wait your approbation of the plan and the arrival of a competent force to execute it. I have summoned Major-General Hall, Brigadier-General Smyth and the commandants of the United States regiments to meet me on a consultation, and I am well aware that some opinions, entitled to great respect, will be offered for crossing the Niagara a little below Fort Erie and pursuing the march down the river. I think this plan liable to many objections. The enemy have works at almost every point, and even an inferior force might hold us in check and render our march very slow; by taking up the bridges at Chippawa they might greatly embarrass us; the cleared country is but a mile or two wide; one flank would be constantly liable to be galled by the Indians from the swamps; for a considerable distance the rapidity of the current and the height of the banks render transportation across the river impracticable; of course our supplies must follow the line of march, with the trouble and hazard of them every day increasing, and should the enemy retreat from General Harrison, they would have a double object in intercepting our supplies, and by falling on our rear and cutting off our communication we might experience the fate of Hull's army. Besides these and many other objections,

there is no object on that side until we should arrive at the commanding heights of Queenston, which are opposite my camp.

The proposal which I shall submit to the council will be that we immediately concentrate the regular force in the neighborhood of Niagara, and the militia here, make the best possible dispositions, and at the same time the regulars shall pass from the Four Mile Creek to a point in the rear of the works of Fort George and take it by storm; I will pass the river here and carry the heights of Queenston. Should we succeed we shall effect a great discomfiture of the enemy by breaking their line of communication, driving their shipping from the mouth of the river, leaving them no rallying point in this part of the country, appalling the minds of the Canadians and opening a wide and safe communication for our supplies; we shall save our own land, wipe away part of the score of our past disgrace, get excellent barracks and winter quarters, and at least be prepared for an early campaign another year. As soon as the result of the council shall be known I shall advise you of it. I have received your letter of the 29th ultimo, and shall acquaint Mr. Harrison with your direction. I regret the slowness of the mail. I have furnished an escort for it from this to Buffalo.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

HEADQUARTERS, Oct. 8, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—On the night of the 5th the General procured a man to cross the river. He returned with information which fully warranted an attack. Orders were actually issued to put the troops in motion. But during some discussions upon a question which I am not at liberty to mention, the reinforcements of the enemy, with six pieces of ordnance, passed into the very work we were that night (night before last) to storm. The design was abandoned to the infinite mortification of some brave fellows, and none more than Solomon (Van Rensselaer), who swore that dead or alive he would go in the first boat. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(*From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 243.*)

Brigadier-General Smyth to Lieut. J. D. Elliott, U. S. A.

October 8th (1812.)

SIR,—Mr. Prestman will bring you the aid we can give: he is a gallant young man, and I request he may be allowed to accompany you. The God who protects the brave guard you and give you success.

(*From Correspondence in Relation to the Capture of the British Brigs, Detroit and Caledonia, Phil., 1843, p. 28.*

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, October, 9th, 1812.

SIR,—I have been honored with Your Excellency's despatch, dated the 25th ultimo, and have to thank Your Excellency for ordering a company of the Glengarry Regiment to strengthen Colonel Lethbridge at Prescott, whose force Your Excellency has been led to believe had been weakened in consequence of my interference, but which, I beg leave to state, was done without my knowledge and contrary to my intention.

The enclosed copies of letters will inform Your Excellency of the state of affairs to the westward. It appears evident that the enemy meditates a second attempt on Amherstburg. The greater part of the troops which are advancing marched from Kentucky with an intention of joining General Hull. How they are to subsist even for a short period in that already exhausted country is no easy matter to conceive. This difficulty will probably decide them on some bold measure, in the hope of shortening the campaign. If successfully resisted, their fate is unavoidable.

The Indians it appears, by the accompanying documents, were adverse to retreating without first making trial of their strength. Taking, however, every circumstance into consideration, I incline to think Captain Muir acted judiciously. Should the Indians continue to afford a willing co-operation, I entertain not the smallest doubt of the event that awaits this second attempt to turn my right. But Your Excellency will easily perceive that doubts and jealousies have already seized their minds. The officers of the Indian department will, I trust, be able to remove all such impressions.

Altho' from the daily observations of what is passing on the opposite shore a single man can ill be spared from this line, I have, notwithstanding, determined to send the two flank companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to Amherstburg.

Fresh troops are daily arriving, supposed to belong to the

Pennsylvanian quota of two thousand, known to be intended for this frontier. After the whole arrive an attack, I imagine, cannot be long delayed. The wretched state of their quarters and the raggedness of the troops will not allow them to brave the rain and cold, which during the past week have been so severely felt. Between two and three hundred Indians have joined and augmented the force on the other side. Their brethren here feel certain they will not act with any spirit against us: so I imagine if we show a bold front, but in the event of a disaster the love of plunder will prevail and they will then act in a manner most to be dreaded by the inhabitants of this country.

I beg leave to recommend to Your Excellency's indulgent consideration, Colonel Procter's application for the increase of pay, as commanding a district, which I request may commence from the 15th of August last.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 123.*)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 9th October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The flank companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment will march at 2 o'clock to-morrow morning for Fort Erie, and on their arrival there they will receive further orders from Major-General Shaw. The Deputy-Quartermaster General will have the requisite conveyance ready for the carriage of their baggage. The 41st Regiment will relieve the men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on duty after the men have dined to-day.

Officers in command of the several divisions will call for, from officers in command of corps and detachments under their orders, a return of armourers belonging to the same, which will be transmitted to the Brigade Major's office without delay.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

Brigade Major.

Colonel P. P. Schuyler to General Smyth.

October 9, 1812, 11 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—The brig *Adams* has been on fire about twenty minutes, and will soon be consumed. We have saved some property that was on board and taken three prisoners. Milton is now crossing to our shore. Brock has arrived opposite with a very superior force. I wait your orders.

Lieut. Jesse D. Elliott to the Secretary of the Navy.

BLACK ROCK, 9th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the morning of the 8th instant two British vessels, which I was informed was His Britannic Majesty's brig *Detroit*, late the United States brig *Adams*, and the brig *Hunter*, mounting fourteen guns, but which afterwards proved to be the brig *Caledonia*, both said to be well armed and manned, came down the lake and anchored under protection of Fort Erie. Having been on the lines for some time, and in a measure inactively employed, I determined to make an attack and if possible get possession of them. A strong inducement to this attempt arose from a conviction that with these two vessels, added to those which I have purchased and am fitting out, I should be able to meet the remainder of the British force on the upper lakes and to save an incalculable expense and labor to the Government. On the morning of their arrival I heard that our seamen were but a short distance from this place, and immediately despatched an express to the officers, directing them to use all possible despatch in getting the men to this place, as I had important service to perform. On their arrival, which was about 12 o'clock, I discovered that they had only about twenty pistols, and neither cutlasses nor battle axes, but on application to Generals Smyth and Hall, of the regulars and militia, I was supplied with a few arms, and General Smyth was so good on my request as immediately to detach fifty men from the regulars, armed with muskets. By four o'clock in the afternoon I had my men selected and stationed in two boats, which I had previously prepared for the purpose. With those boats, fifty men in each, and under circumstances very disadvantageous, my men having had scarcely time to refresh themselves after a fatiguing march of five hundred miles, I put off from the mouth of Buffalo Creek at one o'clock the following morning and at three I was alongside the vessels. In about ten minutes I had the prisoners all secured, the topsails sheeted home and the vessels under way. Unfortunately the wind was not sufficiently strong to get me up against a rapid current into the lake, where I understood another armed vessel lay at anchor, and I was obliged to run down the river by the forts under a heavy fire of round, grape, and canister from a number of pieces of heavy ordnance, and several pieces of flying artillery, and was compelled to anchor at a distance of about four hundred yards from two of their batteries. After the discharge of the first gun, which was from the flying artillery, I hailed the shore and observed to the officer that if another gun was fired I would bring the prisoners on deck and expose them to the same fate we should all

share, but, notwithstanding, they disregarded the caution. They continued a constant and destructive fire. One single moment's reflection determined me not to commit an act that would subject me to the imputation of barbarity. The *Caledonia* had been beached in as safe a position as the circumstances would admit of, under one of our batteries at Black Rock. I now brought all the guns of the *Detroit* on one side next the enemy, stationed the men at them and directed a fire, which was continued as long as our ammunition lasted and circumstances permitted. During the contest I endeavored to get the *Detroit* on our side by sending a boat (there being no wind) on shore with all the line I could muster, but the current being so strong the boat could not reach the shore. I then hailed our shore, and requested that warps should be made fast on the land and sent on board: the attempt was made to haul which again proved useless, as the fire was such as would in all probability sink the vessel in a short time. I determined to drop down the river out of the reach of the batteries and make a stand against the flying artillery. I accordingly cut the cable and made sail with very light airs, and at that instant discovered that the pilot had abandoned me. I dropped astern for about ten minutes, when I was brought up on our shore on Squaw Island; got the boarding boat made ready, had all the prisoners put in and sent on shore, with directions for the officer to return for me and what property we could get from the brig. He did not return, owing to the difficulty of the boat getting on shore. Discovering a skiff under the counter, I sent the four remaining prisoners in the boat, and with my officer I went on shore to bring the boat off. I asked assistance for protection of the brig of Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, who readily gave it. At this moment I discovered a boat with about forty soldiers from the British side making for the brig; they got on board but were soon compelled to abandon her with the loss of nearly all their men. During the whole of this morning both sides of the river kept up alternately a constant fire on the brig, and so much injured her that it was impossible to have floated her. Before I left her she had received twelve shot of large calibre in her bends, her sails in ribbons and her rigging all cut to pieces.

To my officers and men I feel under great obligations. To Captain Towson and Lieutenant Roach of the 2nd Regiment of Artillery, Ensign Prestman of the infantry, to Cyrenius Chapin, Mr. John McComb, Messrs. John Tower, Thomas Davis, Peter Orenstock (Comstock ?) and James Sloan, resident gentlemen of Buffalo, for their soldier and sailor-like conduct; in a word, every man fought with their hearts animated only by the interest and honor of their country. The prisoners I have turned over to the military.

The *Detroit* mounted six six-pound long guns, a commanding lieutenant, lieutenant of marines, a boatswain, a gunner and fifty-six men, about thirty American prisoners on board, muskets, pistols and battleaxes. In boarding her, I lost one man, one officer wounded, Mr. John C. Cummings, acting midshipman, a bayonet through the leg: his conduct was correct and deserves the notice of the department. The *Caledonia* mounted two small guns, blunderbusses, pistols, muskets, cutlasses and boarding pistols, 12 men, including officers, ten prisoners on board; the boat boarding her, commanded by Sailing-Master George Watts, performed his duty in a masterly style. But one man killed and four badly wounded, I am afraid mortally. I enclose you a list of the officers and men engaged in the enterprise, and also a view of the lake and river in the different situations of attack. In a day or two I shall forward the names of the prisoners. The *Caledonia* belongs to the N. W. Company, laden with furs worth, I understand, two hundred thousand dollars.

(*From The Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., Washington, 1814, pp. 99-101.*)

Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott to the Secretary of the Navy.

BLACK ROCK, October 10, 1812.

SIR,—In my letter of yesterday's date, I stated my intention to enclose to you a list of the officers and men engaged with me in capturing His Britannic Majesty's brig the *Detroit* and the brig *Caledonia*. From the incessant fire of the enemy and my own constant engagements for the protection of the vessel, compel me to postpone sending that list till another opportunity. Last evening, having observed an intention on the part of the enemy to remove the ordnance and military stores with which the *Detroit* was charged, I determined at once to set her on fire, thereby to prevent them having the aid of masts and yards in getting her guns into boats, she having five 12-pound guns in her hold and six 6-pounders on deck: that I could prepare them and with my sailors remove the ordnance during the night when unobserved by the enemy. These preparations I am now making, and shall, with as much expedition as possible, continue to get the ordnance and place it in our battery, as we are much in want—not one piece at Black Rock. The *Caledonia* I have perfectly recovered from the enemy.

(*From The Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 102-3.*)

Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott to Commodore Chauncey.

BLACK ROCK, October 10, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the morning of the eighth instant, two vessels, under British colors, came down Lake Erie and anchored under the protection of Fort Erie; that on the same day a detachment of men arrived from New York, accompanied by Sailing Masters Watts and Sisson, with some masters'-mates and midshipmen; that on the morning following, I, with two boats previously prepared for the purpose, boarded and took possession of them, with the loss of two men killed, Samuel Fortune and Daniel Martin, and four wounded, Acting Midshipman John C. Cummings, John Garling, Nathan Armstrong, Jerome Sardic and John Yocum. As there is not a probability of receiving this shortly, I have made communication to the department upon the subject, a copy of which I enclose for your perusal. I beg you will not have conceived me hasty in making this attack. I acted as if the action came directly from yourself. Let me recommend to your particular attention the officers and men who performed this service: each and all did their duty. The ensign of the *Adams* I will send to you by an early opportunity; it is at your disposal. The particulars as it regards the vessels I will forward you in a day or two; at present I am much engaged.

P. S.—I have neglected mentioning to you the names of the vessels captured. One, His Britannic Majesty's brig *Detroit*, formerly the United States brig *Adams*; the other a brig belonging to the N. W. Company, loaded with skins, called the *Caledonia*.

(*From The Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II. p. 102.*)

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October, 16, 1812.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in informing you that by a gentleman who arrived here yesterday afternoon from Buffalo, I learn that Lieutenant Elliott, with about sixty sailors and a number of volunteer militia, cut out from under the guns of Fort Erie, on the night of the 8th instant, the brig *Adams* (lately surrendered at Detroit) and the brig *Caledonia*, laden with peltry, said to be very valuable: but in running these vessels for Black Rock, they both grounded in such a situation that the British fort was firing on them when my informant left there on Friday morning last. It was, however, believed that if they could not be got off they could be destroyed. I, however, hope that Lieutenant Elliott will be able

to save both vessels, for such an addition to our little force on Lake Erie at this time would be invaluable. Lieutenant Elliott deserves much praise for the promptness with which he executed this service, as the sailors had only arrived at Black Rock on the 8th, and he had no particular orders from me except to have boats built and prepared for cutting out the British vessels, which I knew rendezvoused near Fort Erie. If Lieutenant Elliott succeeds in saving the *Adams* and *Caledonia*, I think that we shall obtain the command of Lake Erie before December, but as to this lake I hardly know what to say, as there has not a single pound of powder nor a gun arrived yet, and I can make no calculation when any will arrive. I feel quite discouraged and shall be tempted to seek the enemy with the *Oneida* alone if the guns do not arrive soon.

The sailors have all arrived at their places of destination, but the marines have not arrived. I, however, hope to see them to-day or to-morrow.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., p. 103.)

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 27th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of enclosing you copies of two letters from Lieutenant Elliott, giving an account of his having cut out from under Fort Erie on Lake Erie, in a most gallant manner, two British brigs, the *Detroit* (late *Adams*) and the *Caledonia*. The *Detroit* was manned and armed as a man-of-war: the *Caledonia* belonged to the N. W. company, and loaded with peltry.

Nothing that I can say more than I have already said in a former communication upon this subject will add to the credit of Lieutenant Elliott and the gallant officers and men who accompanied him. The thing speaks for itself and will, I am sure, be duly appreciated by all who have any idea of the difficulties that he had to encounter after getting possession of the vessels.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., pp. 103-4.)

Captain Harris H. Hickman to Lieut. J. D. Elliott.

WASHINGTON, January 8, 1813.

SIR,—In answer to your note requesting of me "a general description of the armament and stores on board at the time of the capture of the *Adams*, and the probable number of men," I can state that I sailed from Malden on the *Adams* and arrived at Fort Erie on the morning preceding the night in which you captured that vessel. I left her in the afternoon and crossed in her boat to

Buffalo with a flag. When I left the *Adams* she had on board five guns mounted (six and four pounders) and six long twelves in her hold. She had also on board a quantity of powder and ball and a number of boxes of muskets. I am not able to state of my own knowledge the number of stands of arms, but I have been informed that nearly all the arms taken at Detroit were on board: if that was the fact the number must have exceeded two thousand. The number of the crew that I left on board could not vary much from sixty, and the number of American prisoners about thirty, including three officers.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., p. 104.)

General Nathan Towson to Commodore J. D. Elliott.

WASHINGTON CITY, July 6, 1843.

SIR,— . . . . . .

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Your official report, dated October 9th, 1812, the day on which the capture was made, gives but an imperfect account of the boarding of the *Caledonia*, and says nothing about the subsequent preservation of that vessel under circumstances similar to those which induced you to cause the *Detroit* to be burnt. Your report says:

"By four o'clock in the afternoon I had my men in two boats which I had previously prepared for the purpose. With these boats, fifty men in each, and under circumstances very disadvantageous, my men having scarcely had time to refresh themselves after a fatiguing march of five hundred miles, I put off from the mouth of Buffalo Creek at one o'clock the following morning, and at three o'clock I was alongside the vessels. In the space of ten minutes I had the prisoners secured, the topsails sheeted home and the vessels under way."

From this as well as from the statement in the *Courier*, it would appear that the vessels must have been anchored close together; that they were boarded at the same time under your superintendence and immediate orders, and that the part performed by the volunteers from the army was not sufficiently important to be particularly noticed. Whereas, you will recollect that the night was dark and that the boats separated immediately after leaving Buffalo Creek and did not see nor communicate with each other after that time: and you will also recollect that the *Caledonia* lay nearest the fort, and to approach her the boat commanded by Mr. Watts must pass the *Detroit* As we passed we were hailed and questioned, but not otherwise interrupted. At this time we indis-

tinctly saw the *Caledonia*, and Mr. Watts expressed strong doubts about our being able to reach her on account of the current, and censured the pilot for having brought the boat nearer in shore. The pilot insisted on the practicability of reaching the brig, notwithstanding the current and the time lost in hesitating about making the attempt. It then became necessary, to prevent the abandonment of the enterprise, so far as we were concerned, that I should take the responsibility and command. We reached the brig with difficulty, and under disadvantageous circumstances. After a sharp conflict we succeeded in carrying her, with a loss on our part of two killed and thirteen wounded. Your official report mentions but one killed and four wounded, but that was confined to seamen. You had no return of my command, which consisted of twenty-nine artillerists, of whom one was killed and nine wounded, making the aggregate as stated.

After mentioning the circumstances which compelled you to anchor the *Detroit* under the fire of the enemy and the impracticability of getting her into harbor, you give the particulars of your landing and of the enemy's boarding with forty soldiers, and then being compelled to leave her "with the loss of nearly all his men;" but you do not mention burning the brig to prevent subsequent recapture.

In speaking of the other vessel you say "the *Caledonia* had been beached in as safe a position as the circumstances would admit of, under one of our batteries at Black Rock." There was no selection of place in beaching the *Caledonia;* she grounded in the Niagara river opposite two of the enemy's batteries, which kept up a fire on her at intervals throughout the day. About the time you left the *Detroit* Mr. Watts left the *Caledonia* with the prisoners taken in her, and did not return. I remained on board with my command, and notwithstanding the fire of the enemy succeeded in getting the brig afloat by landing part of her cargo. If Mr. Watts or the seamen had remained or returned after the cargo was landed we should have been able to have brought the vessel into port, but for want of nautical skill I could only succeed in bringing her nearer the shore and into a safer position before she again got aground.

About dusk a seaman came on board with combustibles, and stated that you had sent him with instructions to burn the brig; that you were informed the enemy had crossed the river below and was marching to attack Black Rock; that the troops were leaving the Rock to join the main body under General Smyth, and that unless the brigs were burnt they would be recaptured. At this time the *Detroit* was on fire. As I did not believe the enemy in-

tended to attack, and that if he did it would be soon enough to burn the brig when it was found he could not be repuised, I would not permit your order to be executed. The report of the enemy's movements proved to be incorrect and the *Caledonia* was saved.

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You are unquestionably entitled to all the credit due for planning the enterprise, and for commanding in person the party that boarded the *Detroit;* but in everything relating to the *Caledonia*, the brig first captured, you had no other agency than that of suggesting the plan and furnishing the boat and seamen that boarded her. Although but a merchant vessel she made a gallant and desperate resistance, and it was not until we had two men killed and thirteen wounded (two mortally) that she was captured, while the *Detroit* permitted you to get alongside before you were discovered and to board her almost without resistance.

I have always thought it strange that the *Detroit*, a British vessel of war lying near an enemy, should have been captured by surprise, more especially as she must have known from the firing of the *Caledonia* the hostile character of the boat she had just hailed. It was certainly fortunate for us that the person in command was a *provincial* and not a regular officer of the British navy as I had until lately believed.

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(From Correspondence in Relation to the Capture of the British brigs Detroit and Caledonia on the night of October 8, 1812. Philadelphia, 1843, pp. 5-7.)

Major-General Hall to General Van Rensselaer.

BUFFALO, October 10, 1812.

SIR,—Yesterday morning about three o'clock Lieut. Elliott, with two boats cut out of the harbor at Erie, two brigs, *Adams* and *Caledonia*. But unfortunately they both grounded, the *Adams* on the west side of Squaw Island and the other directly opposite Swift's Barracks. Our first and great misfortune was from a cannon ball fired from the enemy, which struck Major Cuyler and tore one hand and went thro' his body: he fell dead from his horse instantly. It was the first shot that was fired; he was riding on the beach, a number of gentlemen near him.

A number of American prisoners and some citizens were on board and released, all of which got safe on shore unhurt. Our loss was very trifling, three or four men were killed and seven

wounded, two or three badly. The enemy kept up a brisk cannonading for some time and continued firing thro' the day occasionally. The *Adams* changed owners three times in the course of the day; our troops went on board just at evening, took three prisoners and burnt the vessel. She was much shot to pieces, and it is said she had six twenty-four and eighteen pounders in her hold and some smaller ones. The *Caledonia* was loaded principally with pork, about one-half of which was unloaded yesterday. The twenty-four and eighteen pounders, however, prevented our men from working; several balls were fired through the vessel in the course of the day —one man was killed. No officer except Major Cuyler has even been wounded. I have not yet had time, having no ready assistance, to get an exact return and list of the prisoners named; the whole will exceed forty; two captains were taken. Will you give directions respecting the prisoners? We have but few troops here, and Buffalo, too, is an unsafe place. If the officers are to be paroled, will you give the necessary directions. I find that our brave militia do not like cannon ball much. I saw General Smyth yesterday; he could not tell the day when he would attend at Niagara.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 246-7.)

From the Quebec Mercury, 27th October, 1812.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Fort George to his friend in this city, dated the 11th and 18th of October, 1812.

On the 9th a most unfortunate event took place at Fort Erie. The *Detroit* (formerly the *Adams*) and *Caledonia* merchant sloop, with near 600 packs of deerskins belonging to the Mackinac Company, arrived the previous evening, having very few men on board and encumbered with prisoners, were attacked the following morning by a number of boats containing about 200 of the enemy, who succeeded in cutting the cables of both vessels. The contest now became warm and the vessels drifted toward the American shore, and in a short time the *Caledonia* grounded below Black Rock and the *Detroit* on Squaw Island, about 200 yards from their shore. The fire was now animated betwixt the troops on the opposite shores. A party of ours succeeded in boarding the *Detroit* and dismantled her under a shower of balls; the crew of the vessel had been obliged to abandon her and give themselves prisoners of war. She was blown up at ten in the evening. The loss of the enemy, or that of ours previous to the vessels grounding, has not yet been ascertained, but in the latter business the Americans acknowledge to have sustained considerable loss—many valuable lives—amongst them, I regret to have to number, Major Cuyler.

(From file in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

Inquiry Respecting Loss of the Detroit.

Report of a Court of Inquiry held by order of Major-General Shaw commanding at Fort Erie to make an investigation of the conduct of Lieut. Rolette of the Marine Department, respecting the loss of His Majesty's brig *Detroit*, of which he was commander, Fort Erie, October 27th, 1812.

MAJOR ORMSBY, 49th Regiment,
President.

CAPTAIN FITZGERALD, 49th Regiment. } Members. { CAPTAIN HALL, Marine Department.

Lieut. Rolette, lately of His Majesty's brig *Detroit*, informs the court that on the 8th instant he came to an anchor with His Majesty's brig *Detroit* under his command off Fort Erie and reported the vessel and cargo on board to the commanding officer at the post, also that there were some American officers on board on their parole and received orders to land them on the American shore at Buffalo with a flag of truce, which, being done, the boats returned to the vessel at seven o'clock P. M., at which time the watch was set, consisting of six men with arms and accoutrements. Having no petty officer on board but one sergeant of marines fit for duty, the boatswain and carpenter being ill, I gave particular orders to the watch to keep the match lighted, and also if the watch perceived or heard the approach of a boat or sound of an oar to call all hands and myself on deck. At twelve o'clock I left the deck, the weather being dark and cloudy, wind from the southwest. At three o'clock a. m. one of the watch came down into the cabin and said that he saw a boat going on board the *Caledonia*, which lay inshore of the *Detroit*. On my coming up on deck with Ensign Kerr of the Newfoundland Fencibles I perceived the *Detroit* adrift and a boat alongside, consisting of four naval officers and eighty-eight seamen, belonging to the United States frigate *Adams*, also another boat with two officers and thirty soldiers of the United States army. Being asked to surrender I refused, on which the soldiers immediately commenced a fire of musketry, and the seamen, armed with a pair of pistols and cutlasses each, boarded the *Detroit*. I resisted and defended the vessel with nine men and Ensign Kerr for about fifteen minutes, when, being knocked down and Ensign Kerr wounded and one marine killed and four wounded, the remainder being knocked down the hatchways, the enemy got possession of the vessel, which was during this time drifting down the river towards Black Rock. The crew of the *Detroit* consisted of one officer, two petty officers, one able seaman, seven landsmen, one ensign, one sergeant, one drummer and seven privates of the Royal

Newfoundland Fencibles. The vessel had no quarters or bulwarks for the crew, no boarding nettings or boarding pikes, and was much encumbered with the baggage of the American officers and prisoners of war, several of whom were sick or wounded.

Witness William Woodlands, Sergeant of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, being called into court, states that about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant he heard an alarm on the deck of the *Detroit*, at which time all hands were called to quarters. On his getting on deck he saw several men belonging to the enemy on the forecastle. Private James Howle came on deck with him, who was immediately shot, and the evidence was struck by a cutlass and seized by the enemy and thrown down the hatchway. He further states that at eight o'clock on the evening of the 8th instant he was directed by Lieutenant Rolette to post six sentries, two at the head of the vessel, two at the gangway and two on the quarter-deck, and he remained on deck until a quarter after ten o'clock, when his watch ceased. The orders he gave the sentries were that they should not allow any boat to approach the vessel without acquainting Lieutenant Rolette.

Witness Louis Fervet, private soldier in the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, being called into court states: That about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant he was on board the *Detroit*, when he heard all hands called on deck, and on his going to the arm chest he was seized by some man of the enemy then on board and knocked down the hatchway. He further states that on his getting on deck he saw Lieutenant Rolette and Ensign Kerr engaged with the enemy, who was then crowded on deck, but it being dark he could not state their numbers.

Witness Jonathan Boden, private soldier in the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, being called into court states: That he was sentry on the larboard side of the quarter-deck about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant; that he perceived something at a distance which he at first took for a rock, in consequence of the night being foggy, but it appearing to approach without any noise he instantly went to the cabin door and called Lieut. Rolette, on which the sentry at the head of the vessel called "Boat Ahoy," to which there was no answer. This boat was then near the *Caledonia*, and fired a volley of musketry into her. During this another boat came alongside the *Detroit*, when he endeavored to get a gun to bear upon it, but the boat being close to the larboard side of the *Detroit* the gun could not be brought to bear upon it. He then went down into the cabin and brought up two muskets, which were taken from him by one of the officers of the vessel. He then went down for another musket, and on his coming up he saw

some of the enemy on deck and some going aloft to loose the top-sails, when he perceived the vessel drifting down the river and Lieut. Rolette and Ensign Kerr engaged with the enemy.

Witness Alexander McCrae being called into court states: That he was one of the seamen belonging to the *Detroit* on the morning of the 9th instant when she was attacked by the enemy, at which time he was sentry on the forecastle, when he saw a boat approach the *Caledonia*. He hailed the boat but no answer was given, when a volley of musketry was fired into the *Caledonia*, at which time Lieut. Rolette was called on deck, as well as all hands. He observed another boat on the larboard side of the *Detroit*, which he hailed, and no answer being given he fired a musket at it, and was immediately boarded by the enemy, several of whom went aloft and loosened the sails. At this time, being at the head of the vessel, he saw Mr. Jesse Burbanks (who formerly was master of the *Caledonia*) cut the cable with an axe, when he heard some person ask Lieut. Rolette if he had surrendered, to which he heard Lieutenant Rolette reply he had not surrendered. He remained at the head of the vessel for some time, and on hearing the captain had surrendered, he was drove down the hatchway, the vessel drifting down the river. He further states that there were six sentries on deck at the time the vessel was boarded and five men of the crew had come on deck, but that the remainder were prevented from coming on deck by the *voyageurs* who were passengers on board and thirty-three in number, most of whom slept on deck and were crowding down the hatchway at the time the enemy were boarding.

Witness Alexander Buchanan being called into court states: That he was boatswain on board the *Detroit* on the morning of the 9th instant when she was attacked by the enemy, at which time he was lying in his berth, but on the first alarm he got up and seized a loaded pistol and was going on deck but was prevented by the crowd of *voyageurs*, who were rushing down the hatchways. On attempting to get on deck again the enemy had possession of the hatchways and a blow of a cutlass being made at him, and the remainder of the crew were prevented from getting on deck as the enemy had possession of the hatchways.

Witness Baptiste Napp being called into court states: That he was a sentry on the starboard side of the *Detroit* on the morning of the 9th instant, when she was attacked by the enemy, that he saw a boat approaching the *Caledonia* which he hailed, but receiving no answer he fired a musket shot at it and hailed the *Caledonia*, at which time a volley of musketry was fired from the boat at the *Caledonia*. He then went forward and called all hands to quarters, when two of the *voyageurs*, who had fusees in their possession,

threw them down and ran down the hatchways, followed by several others who were lying on deck during the night; that he fired two shots into the boat that was alongside at which time the enemy was boarding, when he saw one of the American officers fire a pistol at Lieut. Rolette when he asked him if he had surrendered, on which he heard Lieut. Rolette say that he had not surrendered, and that Mr. Kerr was also engaged with another American officer, and that he was himself knocked down the hatchways shortly after.

Question from the Court to Sergeant Woodlands:

Did you hear any of the American officers ask Lieut. Rolette if he had surrendered the vessel?

ANSWER—I heard some person ask Lieut. Rolette if he would surrender the vessel, when Lieut. Rolette replied he would not.

Question from the Court to Jonathan Boden:

Did you hear any of the enemy ask Lieut. Rolette if he would surrender the vessel?

ANSWER—I heard some person ask if he would surrender, and I heard Lieut. Rolette say he would not. Some time after being overpowered he heard Lieut. Rolette say he must surrender.

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, pp. 151-8.)

Biographical Note.

Born in Quebec in 1783, Frederic Rolette, at an early age, went on board a man-of-war and enlisted in the British navy. As will be noticed, he put into effect the design his elder brother (Joseph Rolette, the well-known Indian trader,) vainly cherished in his youth, being unable to overcome paternal opposition.

He soon had an opportunity of displaying his courage, by being present in several famous battles. He was engaged among others in the battle of the Nile, where he received five wounds, and in that of Trafalgar, in which the illustrious Horatio Nelson was killed after having gained a decisive victory over the combined French and Spanish fleets. The sentiment of duty thus compelled him to fight against the flag his ancestors had nobly defended.

After seven years service on the ocean Rolette returned home, and on the fourth of October, 1807, was appointed a second lieutenant in the Provincial Marine. He was promoted on 25th April, 1812, to the rank of first lieutenant and commander of the brig *Hunter* cruising on Lake Erie. The American war, which began some weeks later, afforded an opportunity of exerting his courage and military experience in the defence of his country.

"Let us briefly sketch his exploits: On the third July, 1812, Rolette took by surprise and by an act of astonishing daring, with only six men in a row boat, the American schooner *Cayuga Packet*, which had on board five officers and thirty-three soldiers, besides the crew. The capture of this vessel was the more important as it was loaded with stores for General Hull's army.

"At the battle of the River Raisin on the 22nd of January, 1813, Rolette acted as an artillery officer. The Americans were defeated after a severe struggle, in which the victors had about two hundred men killed or wounded. Rolette fought like a lion and was badly wounded in the head by a musket ball.

"This brave Canadian officer took part in several other engagements, notably the disastrous battle of the tenth September, 1813, on Lake Erie, when the British squadron, overpowered by superior numbers, was obliged to surrender. The captain of the schooner *Lady Prevost* having been wounded at the beginning of the action, Rolette took command, and it was only after being badly contused in the left side and severely burned by an explosion of powder that he surrendered his vessel, quite disabled and on the point of sinking. Had it not been for the repeated remonstrances of his cousin Morin he would have blown it up.

"Rolette took eighteen prizes during the war. He displayed on every occasion a courage and audacity which has never been surpassed.

"At the capture of Detroit the British General Brock praised his conduct in the highest terms. 'I have watched you during the action' said the general, 'you behaved like a lion and I will remember you.' The untimely death of that gallant general unfortunately prevented him from rewarding such distinguished services.

"When wounded at the battle of the River Raisin Rolette obstinately refused to leave the field. 'I have been selected to work this gun' he replied 'and it would be a lasting disgrace for me to leave it.'

"Commodore Barclay, who commanded the British squadron on Lake Erie, said that 'as long as he served under me his excellent conduct deserved my greatest approbation, and I was fortunate in having so good a seaman.'

"After the war a sword of honor, which cost fifty guineas, was presented to Rolette by the citizens of Quebec as a mark of recognition of his heroic conduct in so many battles.

"Frederic Rolette died at Quebec on the 17th of March, 1831, at the age of forty-eight, from the effects of his honorable wounds,

which had never entirely healed. He had married Miss Bouchette, whom he left in poor circumstances, with several children. A pension of three hundred crowns was afterwards granted his widow.

(Translated from Les Canadiens de l'Ouest, par Joseph Tasse, Vol. I., pp. 160-3.)

Coffin, on the authority of James Reynolds, relates that Rolette's life was saved at the River Raisin by a handkerchief, which he had tied around his head to alleviate a headache, p. 205.

Note.

"The *Caledonia* had her own captain, Mr. Irvine, a young Scotchman of a peculiarly retiring and amiable disposition and gentlemanly manners, yet endowed with great firmness and resolution of character. . . . . .

The *Detroit* was almost immediately taken, but the young captain of the *Caledonia*, which lay a little below her, aroused from his bed by the confusion on board his consort, prepared for a vigorous although almost entirely personal resistance. Hastily arming himself, and calling on his little and inexperienced crew (scarcely exceeding a dozen men) to do the same, he threw himself in the gangway, and discharged a loaded blunderbuss into the first advancing boat now dropping from the recaptured *Detroit* to board the *Caledonia*. The enemy were staggered, but still they pursued their object, and Mr. Irvine had barely time to discharge a second blunderbuss into the same boat when he was felled to the deck by a cutlass stroke from one of the crew of the second party, which had boarded him on the opposite gangway. . . .

The intrepidity and self-devotion of Mr. Irvine, whose single arm it appeared had killed and wounded no less than seven of his assailants, met with that reward it so richly merited. The heads of the naval department, anxious to secure so gallant an officer to the service, tendered him, on his exchange, which took place shortly after, the commission of a lieutenant in the Provincial navy."

Richardson's War of 1812, pp. 50-1.

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 10th October, 1812.

SIR,—In consequence of some intelligence recently received relative to the force of the enemy on the opposite shore, I shall this night attack the enemies' batteries on the heights of Queenston. Should we succeed, I shall to-morrow morning cross over and intrench.

Immediately on the receipt of this you will please to give orders to all the United States troops under your command to strike their tents and march with every possible despatch to this place.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 72.)

Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

(Undated) October 10, 1812.

SIR,—Lieut.-Colonel Christie is of opinion after the ammunition and ordnance stores are removed that a subaltern's guard will be sufficient for the protection of the boats and the remaining stores, and that his officers and men, full of ardor and anxious to give their country a proof of their patriotism by being engaged in the first expedition, induces me *to solicit as a favor* that you will allow him and his detachment to accompany me this night. I think it essential that if a blow be struck it should place us upon such ground as will prevent the enemy from giving us a check. Colonel Christie, after placing a strong guard and invalids, can march with three hundred effectives. As silence will be necessary on our march to Lewiston, would you permit two cavalry men to attend me, that the sentries on the road may be acquainted with our movements ?

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 61.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday 13th October, 1812.)

GALLANT AND DARING EXPLOIT.

About one o'clock on Friday morning last, three armed boats with 102 men crossed from this shore to Fort Erie on the opposite side for the purpose of attacking two British armed vessels, the brig *Adams* of six guns and the schooner *Caledonia* of two guns, at anchor near that place, one boat containing about fifty men, another between forty and fifty, and the third six men. The first under the immediate direction of Lieut. Jesse D. Elliott of the United States navy, the second under that of Lieut. Watts, sailing-master, and the third commanded by Captain Cyrenius Chapin of this village. Owing to delay, caused by the darkness of the night, the attack did not commence until about three o'clock ; both vessels were boarded at nearly the same time and captured after a resistence of a few minutes. The cables were immediately cut and the vessels taken down the river. The *Caledonia* anchored near the Rock. The brig was carried by the current to the west side of Squaw Island (about half a mile from Black Rock) and ran aground at a short

distance from the shore. When opposite the Rock a heavy cannonading commenced from the batteries and flying artillery on the other shore, which was soon followed by a return from the vessels. The brig, from her situation, was much exposed. Those on board were notwithstanding safely landed on our own shore. The *Adams* was soon after retaken by the British, but the destructive fire of musketry from the island and our artillery on shore soon compelled them to abandon her. There is good reason to believe they lost a number of their men before they got off. About evening of the same day she was taken possession of by some soldiers belonging to one of the United States regiments, who found on board three men whom their comrades in their hurry to get home again had forgotten to take along with them. It being thought impracticable to keep possession of the brig (a very hasty conclusion, we fear,) she was set on fire and burnt to the water's edge.

This achievement does equal honor to both officers and men engaged in the expedition.

Return of the prisoners of war captured from .the British on board of the *Adams:*

Lieut. Charles Larrabee, Hosea Blood, acting surgeon's mate: Nath. Heaton, Jos. Kinsly, corporals; Abijah Bradley, musician: Alfred Cobourn, John St. Clair, Robt. Arbuckler, Adw. Carr, Lem'l. Parker, Job Winslow, Ichabod Farrar, John D. Jones, Zenas Clark, Joseph Hunt, Jon'n Colby, Chester Wilcox, Wm. D. Ausment, Alva Brewin, Ed. Tuck, John Glover, privates, all of the 4th Regiment, U. S. M., who fought at Tippecanoe and Brownstown and were on their way to Quebec.

In addition to the above were taken on board the *Adams*, Dr. Sylvester Day, surgeon's mate, U. S. army; J. Cannon, 1st Regiment artillery, and four others, volunteers. Four of the wounded which were left on board the brig were carried by the British to Fort Erie.

There were captured on board the *Adams*, Frederic Rolette, 1st Lieut., Commandant, Thomas Kerr, ensign of marines, ten marines, thirty-four Canadian voyagers (French), and on board the *Caledonia*, Robt. Erwin, master, eight seamen and four voyagers.

The boarding party had one killed and eight or ten wounded. A marine was killed a few hours afterwards, while unloading the *Caledonia*, by a cannon shot. The first shot from the British batteries killed Major Cuyler, whose death is published in the succeeding columns.

A 24-pound ball passed through the house of Orange Dean. Another of 6-pounds passed through the store of N. Sill & Co. Above 300 shot were fired from the British batteries.

COMMENDABLE JUSTICE IN THE ENEMY.

In our paper of September 29 we gave an account of the *plunder* of several families at Sturgeon Point by the crew of a British boat.

A proper representation of the same having been made to the British commander at Fort Erie last week a flag arrived and brought over all the *plundered articles* they could find about the boat or ship and 300 dollars in British gold to repair the damage. We understand that a letter accompanied the money and goods, disavowing the unwarrantable act and apologizing in a very handsome manner for the outrage. The evils of war would be much diminished should this principle be acted upon at all places on the frontier.

The Lady Murray and a Revenue Cutter Cut Out.

On the 1st inst. the *Royal George*, late from Newark, anchored off the Genesee river, sent in her boats and *cut out* without *opposition* the schooner *Lady Murray* and a revenue cutter and towed them out. They afterwards went unmolested to the store-house and took out sufficient shipping apparel to rig them and *cleared out*.

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Lieut.-Col. Fenwick.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 10th, 1812.

SIR,—I have received your letter of this evening, acquainting me that Lieut.-Colonel Christie is desirous of marching with his men to this place to share in the contemplated movement. Upon Colonel Christie's leaving a sufficient guard for the ordnance stores, I most cheerfully grant his request. But it will be necessary for him to march by 11 o'clock this night to be here in season.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 62.)

Daniel Dobbins to Captain J. D. Elliott.

ERIE, October 11th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the second inst. is received. In regard to the idea entertained by you that this place is not a suitable one to build gun boats in, allow me to differ from you. There is a sufficiency of water on the bar to let them into the lake, but not a sufficiency to let heavy armed vessels of the enemy into the bay to destroy them. The bay is large and spacious and completely landlocked except at the entrance. I have made my arrangements, in

accordance with my own convictions, for the purpose of procuring the timber and other material for their construction. I believe I have as perfect a knowledge of this lake as any other man on it, and I believe you would agree with me were you here, viz.: That this is the place for a naval station.

(*From Dobbins's History of the Battle of Lake Erie, pp. 9-10.*)

Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, October 11th, 1812.

SIR,—I had scarcely closed my dispatch to Your Excellency of the 9th, when I was suddenly called away to Fort Erie in consequence of a bold, and, I regret to say, successful attack by the enemy on His Majesty's brig *Detroit* and the private brig *Caledonia*, which had both arrived the preceding day from Amherstburg. It appears by every account that I have been able to collect that a little before day a number of boats full of men dropped down the current unobserved, boarded both vessels at the same moment, and cutting their cables were proceeding with them to the American shore when Major Ormsby, who witnessed the transaction, directed the batteries to open on them, and soon compelled the enemy to abandon the *Detroit*, which grounded about the centre of Squaw Island, a little more than a mile below Black Rock. She was then boarded by a party of the 49th Regiment, but as no anchor remained, and being otherwise unprovided with every means by which she could be hauled off, the officer, after throwing the guns overboard and sustaining a smart fire of musketry, decided to quit her. A private, who is accused of getting drunk, and a prisoner of war who was unable from his wounds to escape, with about twenty brought by the *Detroit* from Amherstburg, remained, however, behind, whom it was necessary to remove before the vessel could be destroyed, and Cornet Pell Major of the Provincial cavalry, offered his services. Being unfortunately wounded as he was getting on board, and falling back in the boat, a confusion arose, during which the boats drifted from the vessel, leaving two of the 41st, who had previously ascended, on board. In the meantime, the *Caledonia* was secured by the enemy and a cargo of furs belonging to the South West Company landed.

The batteries on both sides were warmly engaged the whole of the day, but I am happy to say no mischief was sustained by the enemy's fire.

I reached the spot soon after sunset, and intended to have renewed the attempt to recover the *Detroit* which, assisted by the

crew of the *Lady Prevost* which had anchored a short time before, I had every prospect of accomplishing, but before the necessary arrangements could be made the enemy boarded her, and in a few minutes she was seen in flames.

This event is peculiarly unfortunate and may reduce us to incalculable distress. The enemy is making every effort to gain a naval superiority on both lakes, which, if they accomplish, I do not see how we can retain the country. Three vessels are fitting out for war on the other side of Squaw Island, which I would have attempted to destroy but for Your Excellency's instructions to forbear. Now such a force is collected for their protection as would render any operation against them very hazardous.

The manner our guns were served yesterday point out the necessity of an increase if possible of artillery men to our present small number of regulars. The militia evinced a good spirit, but fired without much effect. The enemy, however, must have lost some men, and it is only wonderful that in a contest of a whole day no life was lost on our side. The fire of the enemy was incessant, but badly directed, till the close of the day, when it began to improve. Lieut. Rolette, who commanded the *Detroit*, had, and I believe deservedly, the character of a brave, attentive officer. His vessel must, however, have been surprised, an easy operation where she lay at anchor, and I have reason to suspect that this consideration was not sufficiently attended to by the officers on board and on shore.

We have not only sustained a heavy loss in the vessel, but likewise in the cargo, which consisted of four twelves, a large quantity of shot and about two hundred muskets, all of which were intended for Kingston and Prescott. The only consolation remaining is that she escaped the enemy, whose conduct after his first essay did not entitle him to so rich a prize.

The enemy has brought some boats overland from Slusher to the Niagara River and made an attempt last night to carry off the guard at Queenston. I shall refrain as long as possible, under Your Excellency's positive injunctions, from every hostile act, although sensible that each day's delay gives him an advantage.

12th October, 1812.

The vast number of troops which have been added this day to the strong force previously collected on the opposite side convinces me, with other indications, that an attack is not far distant. I have in consequence directed every exertion to be made to complete the militia to two thousand men, but fear I shall not be able to effect

my object with willing, well-disposed characters. Were it not for the number of Americans in our ranks we might defy all their efforts against this part of the Province. I. B.

Sir Isaac Brock to Colonel Procter.

(Undated, probably Oct. 11 or 12, 1812.)

SIR,—The unfortunate disaster which has befallen the *Detroit* and *Caledonia* will reduce us to great distress. They were boarded whilst at anchor at Fort Erie and carried off; you will learn the particulars from others. A quantity of flour and a little pork were ready to be shipped for Amherstburg, but as I send you the flank companies of the Newfoundland no part of the provisions can go this trip in the *Lady Prevost*. It will be necessary to direct her to return with all possible speed, bringing the *Mary* under her convoy. You will husband your pork, for, I am sorry to say, there is but little in the country.

An active interesting scene is going to commence with you. I am perfectly at ease as to the result, provided we can manage the Indians and keep them attached to your cause, which is in fact theirs.

The fate of the Province is in your hands. Judging by every appearance we are not to remain long idle in this quarter. Were it not for the positive injunctions of the commander of the forces, I should have acted with greater decision. This forbearance may be productive of ultimate good, but I doubt its policy—but perhaps we have not the means of judging correctly. You will, of course, adopt a very different line of conduct. The enemy must be kept in a state of constant ferment. If the Indians act as they did under Tecumseh, who probably might be induced to return to Amherstburg, that army will very soon dwindle to nothing. Your artillery must be more numerous and effective than any the enemy can bring, and your store of ammunition will enable you to harass him continually without leaving much to chance.

I trust you will have destroyed every barrack and public building and removed the pickets and other defences around the fort at Detroit.

You will have the goodness to state the expedients you possess to enable us to replace as far as possible the heavy loss we have sustained in the *Detroit*. Should I hear of reinforcements coming up, you may rely upon receiving your due proportion. Nothing new at Montreal on the 25th ult. Lord Wellington has totally defeated Marmont near Salamanca. I consider the game nearly up in Spain. May every possible success attend you.

(From Tupper's Life of Brock, pp. 326-7.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 11th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—The object of my order to you yesterday, to march your troops to this place, was to support the militia in an attack upon the enemy's batteries in Queenston, warranted by information which I had received, too direct to be doubted and too favorable to be passed by without an effort. But the expedition has failed, and the failure is owing to some circumstances vitally connected with the highest interest of the service; but the particulars are more proper for the subject of personal conference than for this mode of communication. I shall therefore reserve them until I shall have the pleasure of seeing you here. In the interim the United States troops under your command will remain at their encampment near Buffalo.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 72.)

Major-General Brock to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 11th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Recent events have placed a few British officers and soldiers at your disposal as prisoners of war. I have the honor to propose for your consideration an immediate exchange. Should there exist any difficulty in acceding to this arrangement, I entertain a well grounded hope that you will make no objection to allow the officers and men to return immediately on their parole.

Major Evans, the bearer of this communication, is authorized to enter into any arrangement that you may feel disposed to make on the above subject.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 250.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Hall.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON.
(Undated.)

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 10th inst., but have not leisure to answer it in detail. Most sincerely do I lament the death of Major Cuyler.

One division of Captain Hanes' troops will remain at Buffalo, the other will come on here.

For the present you had better send the prisoners into the interior.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 247.)

Lieut.-Colonel John Macdonell to Colonel Talbot.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 12th Oct., 1812.

DEAR COLONEL,—From the movements of the enemy on the opposite shore, and other circumstances, the General is strongly induced to believe he will very soon be attacked on this here. He has therefore commanded me to say that he wishes you to send him, without further delay, a reinforcement of two hundred men from the militia under your command. They will in the first instance march to Fort Erie, and as it is desirable that they should arrive without loss of time, the General wishes that as many of them as you can procure boats for should come by water, should you think that by so doing they will sooner arrive. As it may be found difficult to procure comforts for the number of troops that will probably be assembled, the General wishes you to impress strongly upon the men the necessity of bringing with them a blanket and such articles of clothing as the season requires. At the same time he wishes it to be understood that he thinks their service will only be required for a short period. Volunteers will, of course, be preferred, and such as have or can procure private arms the General trusts will bring them with them.

On the night of the 9th instant the enemy succeeded in boarding and carrying two vessels off Fort Erie, the *Detroit* and *Caledonia*, and, notwithstanding the exertions made to recover them, the former was burnt by them and the other secured by them.

By accounts received we learn that Lord Wellington on the 22nd July, near Salamanca, defeated the enemy under Marmont, taking, killing and wounding from 10 to 12,000 men, and all his artillery. The enemy was in full retreat and His Lordship in close pursuit. We have not the official letter, but there is no doubt of the fact.

Sir John B. Warren has arrived with part of his fleet, which consists of six sail of the line and ten frigates.

(*From the Talbot Papers.*)

Major-General A. Hall to General Smyth.

BUFFALO, October 12, 1812.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to inform me at what time you will meet General Van Rensselaer, agreeably to his request at Niagara?

N. B.—I was at the Rock this morning and there was a good deal of firing from the British shore. It was said that some troops were marching up on the other side of the river. Lieut. Elliott was

apprehensive they might get artillery on the island and destroy his vessels unless men were placed on the island to prevent a landing. You will be able to judge the necessary force.

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 12th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have this moment received your letter of yesterday. To-night I shall again attack the enemy's batteries on the heights of Queenston. Should circumstances render it necessary to march your brigade, I will advise you tomorrow.

(*From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 73.*)

Brigadier-General Smyth to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, 12th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter at ten o'clock p. m.

The badness of the weather and roads harassed the troops yesterday more than can well be conceived. To-morrow I expect their clothing, and they will wash. Next day they might march, to the number of 1200 effective men, but imperfectly disciplined. It is said the enemy are in considerable force opposite to Black Rock, and as Lieut.-Colonels Scott and Christie have arrived with you, the time for your attack is favorable; and may you conquer, is my prayer.

(*From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 72.*)

Troops under Major-Gen. S. Van Rensselaer.

Return of the troops under the command of Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer of the New York Militia, Headquarters Lewiston, October 12th, 1812:

Brigades.	Where Stationed.	Total Present for Duty.	Remarks.
Brig.-Gen. Miller's.....	Lewiston	588	Militia
Lt.-Col. John R. Fenwick's	Lewiston	550	Regulars
Lt.-Col. P. Swift's and Lt.-Col. S. Hopkins'.....	Black Rock and Buffalo	386	Militia
Brig.-Gen. Wadsworth's ..	Lewiston	1682	Militia
Brig.-Gen. Smyth's.....	Black Rock	1650	Regulars
Lt.-Col. Christie's.....	Lewiston	350	Regulars

(*From Solomon Van Rensselaer' Narrative, New York, 1836, Appendix, p. 19.*)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 12th October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

Major-General Brock directs that no communication be held with the enemy by flag of truce or otherwise than by his special permission, unless such an occurrence should arise as to render delay prejudicial to the service, of which officers in the command of posts are to be the sole judges.

It is understood that on the boat captured on the morning of the 9th from the enemy, arms of various descriptions were found which have not been accounted for. Major-General Shaw will make the necessary inquiry and return them to the Major-General's disposal, and it must be clearly understood by every officer and soldier that property taken from the enemy must be reported to the Major-General before it can be applied to any purpose, and that arms in particular are to be at all times reserved for the public service.

Major-General Brock has received Major-General Shaw's report of the spirited conduct of the troops and militia on the morning of the 9th with the utmost satisfaction. Cornet Pell Major was particularly conspicuous, and he has much pleasure to find that the wounds he received on that occasion are not likely to deprive the service very long of his gallant exertions.

A District Court Martial to assemble at Queenston at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it.

41st Regiment—One subaltern.

49th Regiment—One captain and one subaltern.

The Secretary of War to Ephraim Webster.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Oct. 12th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 30th September, addressed to the President, has been received and transmitted with the enclosed talk to Erastus Granger, Esq., agent for the Six Nations, with directions to enquire into the facts therein stated, and instructions to keep the Indians quiet if possible. Should this be impracticable he is authorized to organize and report them to the commanding officer at Niagara.

(*From Ketchum's History of Buffalo, p. 425.*)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 13th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Humanity induces me to request your permission to send to Queenston some surgeons to attend the officers and men who have had the misfortune to be wounded this day, and are prisoners at Queenston. Agreeably to the proposition which I had this afternoon the honor to receive as coming from you, I have agreed to a cessation of firing for three days.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 76.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 13th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I lose not a moment in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of this date, and am pleased to learn at the same time that the officer commanding at Queenston, having opened it, had acceded to your proposal of sending surgeons to aid the wounded prisoners without incurring the delay which would have been occasioned by a reference to me, but as our means of affording assistance to them, as well as to our own wounded, may be inadequate, I beg leave to propose that the wounded prisoners whose cases may admit of removal should be sent over to you, on condition of not serving again until regularly exchanged.

Though the proposition which I had the honor of making to you to-day did not go to the extent which by some mistake you were led to suppose, yet I readily concur with you in agreeing to a cessation of firing for three days, and I transmit orders to that effect to the officers commanding at the several posts on this line.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 76.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 13th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Having delayed sending my accompanying letter to give General Wadsworth and the other officers, who are prisoners, an opportunity of sending for some necessary articles, I have the honor at the same time to propose an exchange of prisoners, including those who were taken some days ago in the two vessels cut out from Fort Erie harbor. I have further to propose, Sir, that the militia taken prisoners, exceeding the number that may be exchanged, shall be restored to their homes and families under an engagement not to serve against Great Britain or her allies during the war, or until regularly exchanged.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 264.)

Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, Oct. 13th, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of informing Your Excellency that the enemy made an attack with considerable force this morning before daylight on the position of Queenston. On receiving intelligence of it Major-General Brock immediately proceeded to that post, and I am excessively grieved in having to add that he fell whilst gallantly cheering his troops to an exertion for maintaining it. With him the position was lost, but the enemy was not allowed to retain it long, reinforcements having been sent up from this post, composed of regular troops, militia, and Indians. A movement was made to turn his left, while some artillery, under the able direction of Captain Holcroft, supported by a body of infantry, engaged his attention in front. This operation was aided, too, by the judicious position which Norton and the Indians with him had taken on the woody brow of the high ground above Queenston. A communication being thus opened with Chippawa, a junction was formed with succours that had been ordered from that post. The enemy was then attacked, and after a short but spirited conflict was completely defeated. I had the satisfaction of receiving the sword of their commander, Brigadier General Wadsworth, on the field of battle, and many officers, with upwards of 900 men were made prisoners, and more may yet be expected. A stand of colors and a 6-pounder were also taken. The action did not terminate till nearly three o'clock in the afternoon, and their loss in killed and wounded must have been considerable. Ours I believe to have been comparatively small in numbers. No officer was killed besides Major-General Brock, one of the most gallant and zealous officers in His Majesty's service, whose loss cannot be too much deplored, and Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell, Provincial aide-de-camp, whose gallantry and merit render him worthy of his chief.

Captains Dennis and Williams, commanding the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, who were stationed at Queenston, were wounded, bravely contending at the head of their men against superior numbers, but I am glad to have it in my power to add that Captain Dennis fortunately was able to keep the field, though it was with pain and difficulty, and Captain Williams's wound is not likely long to deprive me of his services.

I am particularly indebted to Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery for his judicious and skilful co-operation with the guns and howitzers under his immediate superintendence. Their well-directed fire contributed materially to the fortunate result of the day.

Captain Derenzy of the 41st Regiment brought up the reinforcement of that corps from Fort George, and Captain Bullock led that of the same regiment from Chippawa, and under their commands those detachments acquitted themselves in such a manner as to sustain the reputation which the 41st Regiment had already acquired in the vicinity of Detroit.

Major-General Brock soon after his arrival at Queenston had sent down orders for battering the American Fort Niagara. Brigade Major Evans, who was left in charge of Fort George, directed the operations against it with so much effect as to silence its fire and to force the troops to abandon it, and by his prudent precautions he prevented mischief of a most serious nature, which otherwise might have been effected, the enemy having used heated shot in firing at Fort George. In these services he was most effectually aided by Colonel Claus (who remained in the fort at my desire) and by Captain Vigoreux of the Royal Engineers. Brigade-Major Evans also mentions the conduct of Captains Powell and Cameron of the militia artillery in terms of commendation.

Lieutenant Crowther of the 41st Regiment had charge of two 3-pounders that had accompanied the movement of our little corps, and they were employed with good effect.

Captain Glegg of the 49th Regiment, aide-de-camp to our lamented friend and general, afforded me most essential assistance, and I found the services of Lieut. Fowler of the 41st Regiment, Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, very useful. I derived much aid, too, from the activity and intelligence of Lieutenant Kerr of the Glengarry Fencibles, whom I employed in communicating with the Indians and other flanking parties.

I was unfortunately deprived of the aid of the experience and ability of Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy Quartermaster General, who had been sent up to Fort Erie a few days before on duty, which detained him there.

Lieutenant-Colonels Butler and Clark of the militia, and Captains Hatt, Durand, Rowe, Applegarth, James Crooks, Cooper, Robert Hamilton, McEwen and Duncan Cameron, and Lieutenants Richardson and Thomas Butler, commanding the flank companies of the Lincoln and York Militia, led their men into action with great spirit. Major Merritt, commanding the Niagara Dragoons, accompanied me and gave much assistance with part of his corps. Capt. A. Hamilton, belonging to it, was disabled from riding, and attached himself to the guns under Captain Holcroft, who speaks highly of his activity and usefulness. I beg leave to add that Volunteers Shaw, Thomson and Jarvis, attached to the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, conducted themselves with great spirit, the first

having been wounded and the last having been taken prisoner. I beg leave to recommend these young men to Your Excellency's notice. Norton is wounded but not badly; he and the Indians particularly distinguished themselves, and I have very great satisfaction in assuring Your Excellency that the spirit and good conduct of His Majesty's troops of the militia and of the other provincial corps were eminently conspicuous on this occasion.

I have not been able to ascertain yet the number of our troops or of those of the enemy engaged; ours I believe did not exceed the number of prisoners we have taken, and their advance which effected a landing probably amounted to thirteen or fourteen hundred men.

I shall do myself the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency further details when I shall have received the several reports of the occurrences which did not pass under my own observation, with the return of the casualties and those of the killed and wounded and of the ordnance taken.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 281.*)

Return of British Casualties at Queenston.

Return of killed, wounded and missing of the army under the command of Major-General Isaac Brock, in an action at Queenstown, Niagara, on the 13th October, 1812:

General Staff—2 killed.

Royal Artillery—2 rank and file wounded.

Detachment 41st Regiment—1 sergeant, 1 rank and file killed: 1 sergeant, 9 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies, 49th Regiment—8 rank and file killed: 2 captains, 3 sergeants, 27 rank and file, 1 volunteer wounded: 5 rank and file, 1 volunteer missing.

Lincoln Artillery—1 rank and file wounded.

Lincoln Militia—1 adjutant, 1 sergeant, 12 rank and file wounded: 10 rank and file missing.

York Militia—2 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 15 rank and file wounded; 5 rank and file missing.

Total loss—1 Major-General, 1 aide-de-camp, 1 sergeant, 9 rank and file, line, 2 rank and file, militia, killed; 2 captains, line; 1 adjutant, 1 lieutenant, militia; 4 sergeants, line; 2 sergeants, militia; 2 rank and file, artillery; 1 do., militia artillery; 36 rank and file, 1 volunteer, line: 27 rank and file, militia, wounded; 5 rank and file, 1 volunteer, line; 15 rank and file, militia, missing.

General Total—2 general staff, 1 sergeant, 11 rank and file killed; 2 captains, 1 lieutenant, 1 adjutant, 6 sergeants, 66 rank and file, 1 volunteer wounded; 20 rank and file, 1 volunteer missing.

Officers Killed—Major-General Isaac Brock, commanding; Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Provincial Aide-de-Camp.

Wounded—Captains Dennis and Williams, 49th Regiment, volunteer Shaw, do; Lieut. McLean, York Light Infantry; Adjutant McIntyre, Lincoln Militia.

Fort George, 15th October, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS, Major of Brigade.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 14. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch of 5th November, 1812.*)

Return of killed, wounded and prisoners of war in the action at Queenstown, Niagara, on the 13th October, 1812:

Prisoners of War—1 Brigadier-General, 1 major, aide-de-camp, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 3 majors, 19 captains, 32 lieutenants, 10 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon, 852 non-commmissioned officers and privates. Total, 925.

Regulars—Officers, 19; non-commissioned officers and privates, 417.

Militia—Officers, 54; non-commissioned officers and privates, 435. Total, 925.

Estimated loss of the enemy in officers and men killed and wounded, and in wounded sent over during the engagement, 500; supposed total loss, 1,425; acknowledged force engaged, 1,600.

Total British force engaged —Regular and militia, 800; Indians, 200—1,000.

Fort George, 15th October, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS, Major of Brigade.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 16. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch of 5th November, 1812.*)

Return of Ordnance, etc., Captured.

QUEBEC, 1st Dec., 1813.

Return of ordnance and stores captured from the enemy at Queenstown in Upper Canada by the army under the command of Major-General Brock, on the 13th October, 1812, agreeably to Mr. Assistant Commissary Gordon's return of that date:

SPECIES OF STORES.	
Ordnance iron, six-pounder, light	1
Carriage, travelling, with limber complete	1
Elevating screw	1
Hand spikes, traversing	2
Sponges, with staves and rammer heads	2
Shot, fixed, round	4
do, do, case	14
Portfires	12
Waggon, ammunition, tumbril complete	1
Horse harness, trace-sets, wheel	2
do., do., do., leader	2
Muskets, French carbine	435
Bayonets	380
Scabbards for bayonets	141
Pouches, with belts	245
do., without belts	80
Cartridges, musket, with ball and buckshot	2810
do., do., with buckshot only	3140

The above is the most satisfactory account I have been able to procure of the ordnance and stores captured on the 13th October, 1812. It appears by what I can learn from Mr. Assistant-Commissary Gordon, that in the hurry of action he had merely time to ascertain the numbers of the different articles before they were distributed to the artillery and troops for immediate service, which made it impracticable for him afterwards to ascertain with any precision the state thereof.

LARRATT SMITH,
Commissary and Paymaster.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 123, p. 131.)

Return of ordnance and stores, etc., captured at Queenstown, Niagara, on 13th October, 1812:

One six-pounder with tumbril with harness complete.
One stand of colors.

WILLIAM HOLCROFT,
Capt. Royal Artillery.

Fort George, 15th October, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS,
Major of Brigade.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 17. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch of 5th November, 1812.)

Casualties at Queenston.

Names of Indians killed at Queenston :

Ayanete, Kayentatirhon, } Cayuga Chiefs.
Ta Kanentye, an Onondaga warrior.
Kayarawagor, Sakangonguquate, } Oneida warriors.

(*From a Memorandum by Colonel Wm. Claus, Deputy Superintendent.*)

List of American officers killed, wounded or taken prisoners at Queenston, 13th October, 1812 :

Killed—Captain Nelson, 6th United States Infantry ; Lieut. Valleau and Ensign Morris, 13th Infantry ; Lieut. Rathbone, Light Artillery ; Captains S. Clarke and E. Saunders, New York Volunteers.

Wounded—Captains Armstrong, Malcolm, Lawrence and Wool, Lieut. Wendell and Ensign Lent, 13th Infantry ; Lieut.-Colonels Bloom and Van Rensselaer, Lieuts. Gillett and Sweeney, and Adjutant Stafford, New York Volunteers.

Wounded and Prisoners—Lieut.-Colonels Chrystie, 13th Infantry, and Fenwick, Light Artillery ; Lieuts. Clark, 23rd Infantry, and Phelps, 13th Infantry.

Prisoners, Regular Officers—Lieut.-Colonel Scott, Major Mullony, Capts. Gibson, McChesney and Ogilvie ; Lieuts. Bailey, Carr, Fink, Hugunin, Kearney, Randolph, Totten, Turner and Ensign Kent.

Militia and Volunteers—Brig.-General Wadsworth, Lieutenant-Colonels Allen, Mead and Stranahan, Majors Holland and Smith, Capts. Barker, Boem, Brinkerhoof, Brown, Clark, Cronk, Eldridge, Ellis, Howland, Patengal, Root, Spencer and Stanley ; Lieuts. Culley, Daniels, Field, Gray, Hocomb, Houghton, Kishler, Phillips, Price, Randall, Richmond, Robinson, Shepard, Smith, Smith and Wilson ; Ensigns Broughton, Cobb, Denton, Hoyton, Ireland, Peck Sperry, Waldron and White.

Extract of a letter from George Heriot to F. Freeling, dated at Quebec, 24th October, 1812 :

In the last attempt (at Queenston) between two and three hundred men were drowned in crossing the river, and at the conclusion of the combat many precipitated themselves into the river to avoid the bayonet.

(From the Federal Republican of Baltimore, Md., of 3rd November, 1812.)

Extract from a letter from Captain Thomas Gist to a friend in Baltimore, dated at Camp Niagara, 16th October, 1812 :

On the 13th we landed 700 regulars and 500 militia. Colonel Scott of the artillery was wounded and taken prisoner early in the day, when Captain Nathan Towson of Baltimore took command. I had but 17 men left out of 100. They are prisoners. I ran to a boat, full of wounded : we pushed off and crossed under a shower of grape. I escaped with one cut in the head from a British officer, whom my servant shot dead. They have killed 400 of our men.

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, Oct. 13th, 1812.

A cessation of firing having been agreed upon by Major-General Sheaffe and Major-General Van Rensselaer, commanding the American troops at Lewiston, &c., for three days, ending on Friday, the 16th inst., at four o'clock P. M., the officers commanding the several posts on the line will regulate their conduct accordingly.

By order of Major-General Sheaffe.

J. B. GLEGG,
A. D. C.

Battle of Queenston Heights.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM WOODRUFF.

Copy of a letter in the possession of the late David Thorburn of Niagara, found among his papers by his daughter. The writer, William Woodruff, was father of the late Sheriff Woodruff of St. Catharines.

ST. DAVIDS, July 29, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—As you may be in want of some historical knowledge respecting the battle of Queenston Heights—

On the morning of the 13th October, 1812, a little before daylight, the American army commenced crossing the river. Our force consisted of the grenadier and light company of the 49th Regiment, (the whole before General Brock arrived was commanded by Capt. Dennis of the 49th Regiment) two companies of the York flanks, two from the head of the lake. The two flank companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia, also two from the Forty Mile Creek lay at Niagara.

We were put under arms about daylight. I saw the late Gen.

Brock start from the Government House at Niagara, followed by his aid, the late Colonel Macdonnell.

He left orders that as soon as the troops and militia could be got into line to march up to Queenston. We left Niagara about sunrise and arrived at Durham's soon after. We made a small halt and then marched up the hill to about where Mr. Stevens now lives. But before we got there we saw a smart firing on the hill about the place where the hustings are now erected, where we were informed that after the death of General Brock the gallant Colonel Macdonnell had led up a small force to oppose the Americans, when he received his death-wound.

We there met our small force on the retreat. General Sheaffe arrived about this time and assumed the command. We then deployed through S. Vroman's fields, and Mr. Hamilton's and Philip Meddeau's, and gained the hill without any opposition, through the fields where James Williams now lives. We marched by old Chisholm's house and formed a line in where are now Dr. Hamilton's fields, the Americans occupying the point of the mountain with a front of about a quarter of a mile, it being all covered with brush and timber, we being wholly without any covering of any kind. We here waited eyeing each other about an hour, waiting for the two flank companies of the 2nd Regiment Militia and the Grenadier company of the 41st Regiment. The former arrived. We was then ordered to advance; our little field pieces commenced firing. It was returned by the Americans with a six-pounder masked in the brush. A rapid advance was ordered, without firing a musket shot on our part, until within a small distance of the enemy under cover of the woods and underbrush. We was then ordered to halt and fire, which was done. About this time the company of 41st joined us on the extreme right. We stood but a short time until, I suppose, we was ordered to advance with double quick time. The musketry made such a noise I heard no order, but as others moved we all followed. The object I suppose was to dislodge them from their cover, and, if possible, to take the field-pieces, for without knowing or seeing (for the smoke was very dense) we, our company, came smack upon their field-piece which, when we advanced, I suppose they had abandoned. The General and his aid, no doubt, as they ought to do, had a position that all was clear to them, but as the wind blew from the enemy we had their smoke and ours in our faces.

To be more brief the Americans, not being under discipline, would not be brought up again after they broke and sought concealment under the bank. Our regular and militia forces was about 800, and perhaps 80 to 100 Indians.

I must observe that the most severe and destructive part of the engagement to our people was in the morning, before and a little after the death of General Brock.

The prisoners after the engagement numbered about 900, exclusive of the dead and wounded.

Sir, all this is from personal observation by myself. I may err in some minutiæ, but it is correct in the main features.

I have wrote a great deal without conveying much intelligence.

Yours,

W. Woodruff.

David Thorburn, Esq.,
Queenston.

(From MSS. in Toronto Public Library.)

Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer to Hon. Wm. Eustis, Secretary of War.

Headquarters, Lewiston, Oct. 14th, 1812.

Sir,—As the movements of the army under my command, since I last had the honor to address you on the 8th, have been of a very important character, producing consequences serious to many individuals, establishing facts actually connected with the interest of the service and the safety of the army, and as I stand prominently responsible for some of these consequences, I beg leave to explain to you, Sir, and through you to my country, the situation and circumstances in which I have had to act, and the reasons and motives which governed me, and if the result is not all that might have been wished, it is such that when the whole ground shall be viewed I shall cheerfully submit myself to the judgment of my country.

In my letter of the 8th instant, I apprised you that the crisis in this campaign was rapidly advancing and that (to repeat the same) "the blow must soon be struck or all the toil and expense of the campaign will go for nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonor."

Under such impressions, I had on the 5th instant written to Brigadier General Smyth of the United States forces, requesting an interview with him, Major-General Hall and the commandants of regiments, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of future operations. I wrote Major-General Hall to the same purport. On the 11th [I] had received no answer from General Smyth, but in a note to me General Hall mentioned that General Smyth had not yet then agreed upon any day for the consultation.

In the meantime the partial success of Lieutenant Elliott at

Black Rock (of which, however, I have received no official information) began to excite a strong disposition in the troops to act. This was expressed to me through various channels, in the shape of an alternative, that they must have orders to act or at all hazards they would go home. I forbear here commenting upon the obvious consequences to me personally of longer withholding my orders under such circumstances.

I had a conference with ————as to the possibility of getting some person to pass over into Canada and obtain correct information. On the morning of the 4th he wrote to me that he had procured his man, who bore his letter to go over. Instructions were given him; he passed over and obtained such information as warranted an immediate attack. This was communicated to several of my first officers and produced great zeal to act; more especially as it might have a controlling influence upon the movement at Detroit, where it was supposed General Brock had gone with all the force he dared spare from the Niagara frontier. The best preparations in my power were therefore made to dislodge the enemy from the heights of Queenston and possess ourselves of the village, where the troops might be sheltered from the distressing inclemency of the weather.

Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick's flying artillery and a detachment of regular troops, under his command were ordered to be up in season from Fort Niagara. Orders were also sent to General Smyth to send down from Buffalo such detachment of his brigade as existing circumstances in that vicinity might warrant. The attack was to be made at 3 o'clock on the evening of the 11th by crossing over in boats from the old ferry opposite the heights. To avoid any embarrassment in crossing the river (which is here a sheet of violent eddies) experienced boatmen were procured to take the boats from the landing below to the place of embarkation. Lieutenant Sim was considered the man of the greatest skill for this service: he went ahead and in the extreme darkness passed the intended place far up the river, fastened his boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this front boat he had carried nearly all the oars which were prepared for the boats. In this agonizing dilemma stood officers and men, whose ardor had not been cooled by exposure through the night to one of the most tremendous north-east storms, which continued unabated for 28 hours and deluged the whole camp. Colonel Van Rensselaer was to have commanded the detachment.

After this result I had hoped that the patience of the troops would have continued until I could submit the plan suggested in my letter of the 8th, that I might act under and in conformity to

the opinion which might be then expressed. But my hope was idle: the previously excited ardor seemed to have gained new heat from the recent miscarriage: the brave men were mortified to stop short of their object, and the timid thought laurels half-won by the attempt.

On the morning of the 12th, such was the pressure upon me from all quarters that I became satisfied that my refusal to act might involve me in suspicion and the service in disgrace.

Lieut.-Colonel Christie, who had just arrived at the Four Mile Creek and had late in the night of the 1st [11th ?] contemplated an attack, gallantly offered me his own and his men's services, but he got my permission too late. He now again came forward, had a conference with Colonel Van Rensselaer and begged that he might have the honor of a command in the expedition. The arrangement was made. Colonel Van Rensselaer was to command one column of 300 militia, and Lieut.-Colonel Christie a column of the same number of regular troops.

Every precaution was now adopted as to boats and the most confidential and experienced men to manage them. At an early hour in the night Lieut.-Colonel Christie marched his detachment by the rear road from Niagara to the camp. At 7 in the evening Lieut.-Colonel Stranahan's regiment moved from Niagara Falls; at 8 o'clock Mead's, and at 9 Lieut.-Colonel Bloom's marched from the same place. All were in camp in good season. Agreeably to my orders issued upon this occasion, the two columns were to pass over together. As soon as the heights should be carried Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick's flying artillery was to pass over, then Major Mullany's detachment of regulars and the other troops to follow in order.

Colonel Van Rensselaer with great presence of mind ordered his officers to proceed with rapidity and storm the fort. This service was gallantly performed and the enemy driven down the hill in every direction. Soon after this both parties were considerably reinforced, and the conflict was renewed in various places. Many of the enemy took shelter behind a stone guard-house, where a piece of artillery was now briskly served. I ordered the fire of our battery to be directed upon the guard-house, and it was so effectually done that with eight or ten shot the fire was silenced. The enemy then retreated behind a large stone house, but in a short time the rout became general and the enemy's fire was silenced except from a one-gun battery so far down the river as to be out of the reach of our heavy ordnance, and our light pieces could not silence it. A number of boats now passed over unannoyed, except by the one unsilenced gun. For some time after I had passed over the victory seemed complete, but in expectation of further attacks I was taking

measures for fortifying my camp immediately. The direction of this service I committed to Lieutenant Totten of the Engineers. But very soon the enemy were reinforced by a detachment of several hundred Indians from Chippawa. They commenced a furious attack, but were promptly met and routed by the rifle and bayonet. By this time I perceived my troops were embarking very slowly. I passed immediately over to accelerate their movements, but to my utter astonishment I found that at the very moment when complete victory was in our hands the ardor of the unengaged troops had entirely subsided. I rode in all directions: urged the men by every consideration to pass over, but in vain. Lieut.-Colonel Bloom, who had been wounded in action, returned, mounted his horse and rode through the camp, as did also Judge Peck, who happened to be here, exhorting the companies to proceed, but all in vain.

At this time a large reinforcement from Fort George was discovered coming up the river. As the battery on the hill was considered an important check against their ascending the heights, measures were immediately taken to send them a fresh supply of ammunition as I learnt there were only left twenty shot for the 18-pounders. The reinforcements, however, obliqued from the road and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights. Finding, to my infinite mortification, that no reinforcement would pass over; seeing that another severe conflict must soon commence, and knowing that the brave men at the heights were quite exhausted and nearly out of ammunition, all I could do was to send them a fresh supply of cartridges. At this critical moment I despatched a note to General Wadsworth, acquainting him with our situation, leaving the course to be pursued much to his own judgment, with the assurance that if he thought best to retreat I would endeavor to send as many boats as I could command, and cover his retreat by every fire I could safely make. But the boats were dispersed; many of the boatmen had fled panic-struck, and but few got off. My note, however, could but little more than have reached General W[adsworth] about 4 o'clock, when a most severe and obstinate conflict commenced and continued for about half an hour, with a tremendous fire of cannon, flying artillery and musketry. The enemy succeeded in repossessing their battery and gaining advantage on every side. The brave men who had gained the victory, being exhausted of strength and ammunition, and grieved at the unpardonable neglect of their fellow soldiers, gave up the conflict.

I can only add that the victory was really won, but lost for the want of a small reinforcement; one-third part of the idle men might have saved all.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 63.)

Major J. B. Glegg to Mr. William Brock.

FORT GEORGE, UPPER CANADA, 14th Oct., 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—With a heart agonized with the most painful sorrow, I am compelled by duty and affection to announce to you the death of my most valuable and ever to be lamented friend, your brother, Major-General Brock.

He fell yesterday morning at an early hour, when at the head of a small body of regular troops, consisting of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, disputing every inch of ground with a very superior body of the enemy's troops in the town of Queenston. The ball entered his right breast and passed through on his left side. His sufferings, I am happy to add, were of very short duration, and were terminated in a few minutes, when he uttered in a feeble voice:

"My fall must not be noticed or impede my brave companions from advancing to victory."

His lifeless corpse was immediately conveyed into a house at Queenston, unperceived by the enemy, and although we were obliged, by overwhelming numbers, to leave it there for some hours it was not observed by the enemy, and upon victory declaring in our favor I hastened to the spot, and finding my lamented friend in the same concealed place where we had left it in the morning, the body was immediately conveyed to Fort George, where it now lies in state in the Government House, and has already been bedewed by the tears of many affectionate friends.

His loss at any time would have been great to his relations and friends, but at this moment I consider the melancholy event as a public calamity. He was beloved and esteemed by all who had the happiness to know him, and was adored by his army and by the inhabitants of this Province.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, pp. 203-4.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 14th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Agreeably to your permission, verbally communicated last night to Captain Dox, I send surgeons for the purpose proposed. And I have now to request that an officer and a detachment of men, sufficient for the purpose, may be permitted to bring the dead bodies over the river in boats. Also to send the officers who are prisoners, their baggage and cash.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 264.)

Captain J. Dennis, 49th Regt., to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

QUEENSTON, 14th October, 1812.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you, by Major-General Sheaffe, that the service of burying the dead was ordered at an early hour yesterday evening, and in consequence I proceeded with the duty to the fallen brave at an early hour this morning, which was completed as far as they could be discovered in the wood when your letter of this day arrived this forenoon. Had I known of your wishes yesterday evening I should have given every assistance within my power toward their satisfaction.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 14th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of receiving your letter of this date, respecting the employing an officer and a sufficient number of men to collect and convey over the bodies of the dead for the purpose of burial. This service is reported to me to have been nearly completed, in consequence of orders I gave yesterday. But should any body or bodies still remain uninterred that you may particularly desire to have possession of, the officer commanding at Queenston shall be directed to afford every facility for recognizing and removing them.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Sheaffe.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 14th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, relative to the bodies of the dead. I know of no particular case in which, under existing circumstances, I ought to avail myself of your humane permission. To the general proposition contained in your letter of yesterday, respecting the general exchange of prisoners, I readily accede, and now send Captain Dox, who will immediately meet such agent as you may please to appoint to confer on the subject, and make such arrangements as may most speedily carry the agreement into effect.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)

Brigadier-General William Wadsworth to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

NEWARK, UPPER CANADA, Oct. 14, 1812.

SIR,—It falls to my lot to observe that myself and upwards of forty officers are prisoners at this place. Many officers and soldiers fell yesterday. I am not yet made acquainted with what the situation of my officers and soldiers is to be. We are yet in much confusion. Much difficulty arises this morning for want of specie (among) the officers generally; the State Bank bills will not be received at all. If the officers could be relieved by an exchange of bills for silver it would be much for their comfort. Excuse me from saying anything further at this moment. I hope soon to have the liberty of writing you again. I cannot conclude without expressing my satisfaction of the treatment received from General Sheaffe and his officers since we fell into his possession.

(*From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.*)

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

Evening of 14th October, 1812.

DEAR ALEXANDER,—I told you the dreadful day of battle was at hand. Yesterday was that day in good earnest. I lament that I am not in a situation to detail all particulars: I can only sketch the outline. But first let me tell you that General Van Rensselaer was placed in a situation in which he had only the alternative of eternal disgrace upon his own character and the army or to give the enemy battle: this I can demonstrate to the world. Thus situated he decided for battle. At four o'clock yesterday morning our column of 300 militia, under the command of Col. Van Rensselaer, and one column of 300 regulars, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Christie, embarked in boats to dislodge the enemy from the Heights of Queenston, opposite the camp. They were to land under cover of a battery of two eighteen-pounders and two sixes. As the fire from this battery was all important, and to be directed by a very scant light, and if illy directed would be fatal to ourselves, General Van Rensselaer did me the very great honor to direct. The river is rapid and full of whirlpools and eddies. The movement was instantly discovered; the shore was one incessant blaze of musketry; three batteries pelted upon the boats. My battery pelted alternately upon the batteries and upon musketry on shore, while a snug little mortar near by complimented my battery liberally with shells.

In a word, the scene was tremendous. The boats were a little embarrassed, but Colonel Van Rensselaer made good his landing in a perfect sheet of fire. He had advanced but a few steps when he received a shot in his right thigh, entering just back of the hip-bone. He still advanced with his van—received another shot, through the same thigh. He still advanced and received the third shot, through the calf of his left leg : he still advanced, then a fourth shot contused his heel badly : he still advanced till he was really riddled by other balls through his legs and thigh. Thus bleeding at six holes and very lame in his heel he halted in fire, and with perfect presence of mind directed his officers, of whom *Stephen Lush* was one, who is now with us unhurt, to rush forward and storm the first battery. It was gallantly done. Both parties reinforced fast : every battery played its best. The conflict spread wide and became general over the heights. The enemy gave way and fled in every direction. A large body of them got behind a stone guard-house, in which was mounted a piece of heavy ordnance. I directed both 18-pounders against it. We raked them severely, and at the eighth shot tumbled up a heap of men, and I believe dismounted the gun. At any rate we silenced it. The squad then fled behind Judge Hamilton's stone house ; our eighteens raked them from there, and what could, fled. With our sixes we used grape, as opportunity offered. By this time, about ten o'clock, the enemy's fire, except one gun out of reach down the river, was silenced. Victory seemed complete.

The battle was long and severe. Many are killed and many wounded on both sides. The General had passed over to the Heights, but sent me back to urge on the troops which were passing over to support the two columns. Soon after the General got over and was taking a bite of bread and cheese in John Bull's barracks (for he had eaten no breakfast) a detachment of some hundreds of Indians from Chippawa arrived and commenced their attack with great fury, but the rifle and the bayonet scattered the sons of Belial and drove them to the woods. Still the reinforcements moved over very slowly and, in short, stopped. The General returned to accelerate them. He mounted a borrowed horse and I rode with him, everywhere urging on the troops, for not half of them had passed over. But the name of Indian, or the sight of the wounded, or the devil, or *something else* petrified them. Not a regiment, not a company, scarcely a man would go. Lieut.-Colonel Bloom, who had returned wounded from the Heights, mounted his horse, exhorted, swore, prayed the troops, who were standing paraded with arms in their hands, to advance. Next (but from whence he came I know not,) old Judge Peck appeared with a large cocked hat and long sword,

with a broad white belt. He preached and prayed, but in vain. By this time General Brock had got a large reinforcement of regulars on their way from Fort George. Knowing that our grand battery was the best check on their ascending the Heights, I ran my horse there, about one mile, to put our round and grape shot in motion. The four pieces were shotted, but to my mortification before the reinforcements came within our reach they obliqued to the right, went in the rear of the woods, formed a junction with the Indians and prepared to renew the attack. The ammunition of the men on the Heights was nearly exhausted, for they had now fought with little intermission for eleven hours. The General sent them some supplies, which I think could scarcely have reached them when, at about half-past, four, commenced a furious, obstinate and tremendous conflict. On both sides fixed cannon, flying artillery and roll of musketry. The mountains seemed to shake beneath the stride of death. It continued about half an hour, when the brave fellows, who had waded through blood to victory, exhausted of strength and ammunition, yielded the day. I cannot say how many have fallen, how many wounded and how many may have taken to the woods to escape the fury of the Indians and swim or otherwise cross the river as they can. The British have suffered much. Brock is slain, his Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Macdonnell, mortally wounded. General Van Rensselaer is perfectly well, and his conduct through the whole action would do credit to an old soldier.

This day has been spent in burying the dead, dressing wounded on both sides of the river, collecting together again the public property, negotiating an exchange of prisoners, and all the duties consequent on such an obstinate and bloody battle. Both parties have suffered severely, but which the most in slain I cannot tell. We took but few prisoners. They have taken a very considerable number, among whom is General Wadsworth. Reports are so various that I might injure more than I should console by details. Lush is well: Gansevoort is well: both here. Sweeney, late of Albany, is wounded and a prisoner, but the surgeon who dressed him tells me he will recover. Rathbun, I have *heard*, is pretty severely wounded and a prisoner. Capt. John E. Wool, of Troy, got over. I have seen him: shot through the buttocks, but he behaved very well in action. Now, mind *this*, young *Smith*, nephew of Walter Van Vechten, behaved well in action: is prisoner at Fort George. He wrote me today: he will be exchanged on parole in a few days, as I expect all the militia. General Sheaffe has made that proposition today. Major Mullany is prisoner, unhurt. Col. Stranahan is prisoner, I believe wounded but not badly. Grosvenor (brother of Tom) had his rifle cap shot through and all round, but he is unhurt

here. Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick of the Light Artillery has severe wounds; he may recover. He was taken. Grosvenor retook him and then he was taken again. We have lost a number of brave officers. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(*From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 266-8.*)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Sheaffe.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 15th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Captain Dox, whom I yesterday sent to Fort George to make the necessary arrangements for an exchange of prisoners, being assigned for other duty this day, I now send Col. Winder to complete the business, and I flatter myself there will be no objection to this substitution. Col. Winder is further instructed to communicate to you my wishes upon several subjects (a continuation of the armistice) and by any stipulation he may enter into respecting them I shall be governed.

(*From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 268.*)

Major J. B. Glegg to Justice W. D. Powell.

FORT GEORGE,
Wednesday Morning, Oct. 14, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—With heartrending sorrow I assume the painful duty of announcing to you the death of my most valuable and much lamented friend, Major-General Brock. He fell yesterday morning at an early hour, when at the head of a small body of regular troops, disputing every inch of ground with a very superior body of the enemy's troops in the town of Queenston. The ball entered his right breast and passed through his left side. His sufferings, I am happy to add, were of short duration, and were terminated with a fervent exhortation that his fall should not impede his brave followers from advancing to victory. His body was immediately carried into a house at Queenston, and though we were obliged by a great superiority of numbers to leave it for some hours, it was recovered during the day when our victorious troops regained the place.

I am grieved to inform you that our gallant and much esteemed friend, Macdonnell, received a severe wound much about the same time, and, having fortunately been carried to the rear of our army, he immediately received medical assistance. The wound, my dear Sir, is very serious, a musket ball having passed through his body

near the navel, but it is supposed not to have injured his bladder. He was removed last night to the Government House, where he received every aid and attention. I never quit his bed for more than a few minutes, and Mr. Macdonnell, (your late sheriff,) who arrived here on the 12th from Kingston, is unremitting in his kindness. Captains Dennis, Williams and several other officers were wounded much about the same time, but are all doing well. Young, Shaw and McLean received slight wounds. Our victory, though sadly clouded by the loss of our dear chief, has been most complete. All did their duty. General Wadsworth, a large body of officers, nearly 800 prisoners, the only piece of artillery which the enemy carried over, and one stand of colors, are now in our possession.

The enemy's attack was confined to Queenston. Our batteries at this place and Fort Erie have done great execution in their defences and barracks.

The jail here was burnt down yesterday, but whether from the enemy's fire or an act of some of the prisoners has not been ascertained.

Their cannonading, though continued for some hours upon this place, I am happy to say committed no injury, except upon a few houses. Their fire was effectually silenced by our batteries, and the fort was abandoned.

Our magazine was set on fire by red-hot shot, but was soon extinguished by the heroic presence of mind of our troops.

The enemy commenced landing their troops a couple of hours before daylight yesterday morning, and after twelve hours hard fighting were compelled to lay down their arms.

Not having any ships of war here General Sheaffe, I believe, intends sending off this day about 170 American regular troops to York in the *Simcoe*.

Half-past one o'clock.

My poor friend Macdonnell has just expired.

Agreement for the Exchange of Prisoners.

The militia to be crossed over to Fort Niagara, on their parole not to serve during the war or until regularly exchanged. Take Capt. Leonard's receipt for the number crossed over. The officers to be exchanged from the line to be drawn by lot or by the direction of Major-General Van Rensselaer. A medical person will be sent over to-morrow to select from the wounded those individuals to be crossed over. This medical officer will also determine the case of any wounded officer that it may be advisable to have paroled. The

British prisoners at Black Rock to be set at liberty as soon as possible, and those at Lewiston to-morrow morning. The commanding officers at Fort Erie and Queenston respectively to give receipts for those who may be crossed over to those places.

James Molloy, conductor of King's stores, to be exchanged for a subaltern of the line. The thirty-seven *voyageurs* to be considered exchanged as militia.

Signed at Newark.

WM. H. WINDER, Col. 14th Regt.,
U. S. Army.

THOS. EVANS, Brigade-Major,
King's Regiment.

Colonel Mead's Statement.

Our reasons for publishing the following are two: 1, to show the qualifications for military command of the Federal candidate for the chief magistracy, and, 2d, to preserve it as a matter of historical record.

To the Citizens of Chenango, Tioga and Broome Counties, from which the 17th Regiment of Militia were detached, under Lieut.-Colonel Mead:

FELLOW-CITIZENS,—Deeming it a duty I owe to the regiment under my command, to my own feelings, as also to put at rest the various and erroneous remarks which have gone abroad respecting the conduct of those under me in the late engagement at Queenston, the following is submitted to the public:

The regiment having been detached and rendezvoused, pursuant to general orders, on the 19th of September last, we took up our line of march from the town of Norwich: on the 26th arrived at Canandaigua, and on the 30th arrived at Batavia, where we lay in camp six days, to draw deficient arms. On the 7th October resumed our march: on the 9th arrived at Black Rock; lay by one day to draw provisions; on the 11th arrived at Schlosser through a tedious storm of rain. On the 12th, in the afternoon, Adjt. Noyes, in company, rode to Lewiston to report myself and regiment to General Van Rensselaer. On my arrival he informed me he had given orders for my regiment to march from Schlosser to Lewiston at 8 o'clock of that night, Col. Stranahan's at 7 o'clock and Col. Bloom's at 9, in order to cross the river at four in the morning of the 13th, in order to take possession of Queenston Heights—on which I informed the General my troops were quite beat out with marching through the mud and rain: that we were destitute of ammunition, and but

about one-half of my soldiers provided with cartridge-boxes, and that Colonel Stranahan and myself had marched in company, and that his troops were much in the same situation ; that the riflemen of my regiment had neither powder or lead to run their balls ; that under such circumstances I did not see that any great reliance could be placed on either of our regiments, with so short a notice ; that if a day or two could be given for the soldiers to recruit, be furnished with ammunition and regain their spirits, I had no doubt but they would volunteer to a man, but that I must remonstrate against going over that night. To this Gen. Van Rensselaer replied, with some warmth, that the troops should cross that night if ever ; that he did not know what would be done ; that out of the two regiments stationed at Lewiston, viz., Cols. Allen's and Dobbins', not more than 75 or 80 men would volunteer.

Finding all remonstrance failed to gain us the necessary time, I made enquiry where we should obtain ammunition and the deficient cartridge boxes. The General replied if I would call on him at his marquee at 12 o'clock at night we should be furnished. Accordingly, we arrived at Lewiston between 11 and 12 o'clock from Schlosser, a distance of seven miles, and an excessive bad road. I immediately repaired to Gen. Van Rensselaer's marquee to receive orders for drawing ammunition, but it was in vain I sought the General or any person to act in his room. After patroling the encampment for an hour, I found a Major Wells appointed to take charge of the ammunition, but to my surprise he informed me there was none nearer than one mile and-a-half, at the arsenal on the mountain. We then received a second assurance that we should be supplied by daylight. At four o'clock about 300 regulars of the 13th Regiment and an equal number of militia, under Cols. Christie and Van Rensselaer, crossed and stormed and took possession of the Heights at Queenston. All was now bustle and confusion. At daylight I again applied for the ammunition and cartridge-boxes, and found at that moment a wagon had been sent to the arsenal for the same, which arrived not until one hour's sun. As fast as the soldiers were provided they were ordered to march to the river. At our arrival at the bank there were but three boats to convey us across, which would conveniently carry about twenty men each ; in these we commenced crossing, until 100 of my men had reached the British side, under fire of one of the enemy's batteries about 80 rods distance down the river. As soon as we ascended the Heights on the opposite side, Col. Stranahan and myself were taking measures to dispatch a detachment of men to take possession of the enemy's battery that was annoying our boats while crossing. At this instant we were attacked on the left by the

Indians. Our number was now about 200, under Colonel Stranahan and myself.

It was with deep regret that we saw many brave officers and soldiers fall by the savage band concealed in a thick brush or wood, which prevented our making a due impression in return. At this disastrous moment there seemed no prospect of driving them from their fatal cover but by an immediate charge, which was accordingly ordered and executed with bravery by our soldiers, when the Indians fled with great precipitancy from the field. Finding that we received no reinforcement, I returned to the top of the bank that overlooks the river to give signal for more men to cross, but could discover only about twelve or fifteen on the American side; these instantly crossed over to our assistance. It was now about two o'clock p. m., when General Wadsworth received orders from General Van Rensselaer to retreat, on which a council of war was called, and held in sight of the British and their Indian allies while on the advance towards us. My advice at this council was to make a vigorous effort to maintain the ground for which so many of our brave men had bled. This advice perhaps was imprudent, as the British and Indians numbered about 900, while ours at this period did not exceed 500; besides, the enemy had four or five pieces of artillery loaded with grape shot; our army had but one, and that with only three remaining cartridges. At this moment, about three o'clock, a retreat was ordered by General Wadsworth—the enemy about fifteen rods in the advance of our body. The retreat was continued about 60 rods to the river bank, under fire of the cannon and musketry of the enemy. The fire of the enemy continued for about fifteen minutes after we arrived at the river bank, when we surrendered ourselves prisoners of war. The number of prisoners, including those who had not been in the action, amounted to 900. Our loss during the day was about 100 killed, including regulars and militia, and about 200 wounded.

OBSERVATIONS.

The causes conducing to the disastrous event of the attack on Queenston Heights are many. The first and principal one, that the plan was not sufficiently matured before the operation commenced. After the first body of six hundred of regulars and militia crossed at four in the morning, the soldiers of my regiment and that of Col. Stranahan were retarded four hours for want of ammunition. This occasioned an undue haste and confusion. This delay was a great loss in the operations of the day. When we were prepared for crossing, instead of a sufficient number of boats to convey a large body at a time there were only three: this prevented the security

soldiers would feel in their own protection when in a considerable body, and also delayed the others by obliging them to stand on the bank after their arrival, and seeing the wounded in the return boats added very little to their inducement to go over. After the first body the crossing was continued in a scattering, irregular manner, without plan or preconcert or co-operation, many going to the river and returning for want of means to get over.

This misfortune could have been remedied by providing a sufficient number of boats and appointing proper officers to take command of the same and regulate the crossing of the men. Thirteen only were employed in the first instance; this number was soon reduced to three, either by the enemy or being suffered to drift; while at the Four Mile Creek, ten miles from Lewiston, there were 40 boats, and 40 or 50 at Schlosser, only seven miles distance. If ammunition had been seasonably procured and means provided for crossing, my regiment and that of Colonel Stranahan would have crossed almost to a man.

The place selected for the attack was perhaps the most difficult for effecting a landing of any on the station, our troops having to ascend a difficult steep of about twelve rods, exposed to a destructive fire.

The plan was not conducted with sufficient secrecy and caution. The enemy being apprised of our movements and intended attack, were completely prepared for our reception, which proved a great loss to our brave troops.

The number that crossed was doubtless sufficient to have maintained the ground for 48 hours, during which time measures could have been taken to have secured our return, but there were about 200 who had crossed, including regulars and militia, who during the action left the main body and skulked under the bank on the British side. On my coming to the height to make signals for more to cross, discovering them I made use of arguments which I thought calculated to raise their humanity if not their courage, but without effect: these cowards neither saw nor felt for their country or fellow-soldiers engaged with a superior number of the enemy. These, with many others, fled to the American side in the boats destined for carrying the wounded.

To me it is mysterious and unaccountable that General Smyth's brigade, stationed at Buffalo, thirty miles from Lewiston, should have been ordered back by Gen. Van Rensselaer when on their march to aid us in the attack, and only ten miles in our rear on the night before it was made. Their co-operation would have given us a glorious victory. The motives or views of Gen. Van Rensselaer

in the conduct of the expedition throughout, are to me as unaccountable as the expedition itself is unfortunate.

I cannot forbear expressing my commendation and acknowledgments in behalf of the officers and soldiers who acted under me during the day. The officers who signalized themselves for courage and prompt obedience to orders are :

Captain Daniel Root, of Chenango county.
Captain Eli Bacon, of Tioga county.
Lieutenant John Fields, of Tioga county.
Lieut. Charles Randall, of Chenango county.
Ensign John Height, of Chenango county.
Sergt.-Major Washington Windsor, of Chenango county.
Lieut. Daniel Chase, wounded and brought off the field.

To both officers and soldiers equal merit is due for their bravery and good conduct. To their country, whenever exchanged, they will be a valuable and tried band.

Those who crossed and shamefully abandoned their brethren-in-arms, either by re-crossing or skulking under the shore, are deserving more censure than such as did not attempt to cross. Motives of delicacy alone prevent my giving their names to the public, especially the officers, whose epaulettes blush for their cowardice and are disgraced by the wearer. Of those who re-crossed, some were commanded to return by their superiors on business of arrangement, and were constantly engaged in situations equally exposed with those in the field, particularly Major John Randall of my regiment, whose duties were arduous and promptly executed.

Although our loss was great and the issue truly unfortunate, the enemy have no reason to boast of their advantage. To them it is a victory which will be remembered with pain. Major-General Brock, an experienced and brave leader, with one of his aids, was slain in the early part of the action. The British acknowledged that his death was more serious than would have been the loss of a thousand of the rank. They have no commander in the Canadas who can fill his place. It is an observation which has been made by experienced men, that republics in war, like an elastic ball, rise and resist in proportion to their pressure ; that defeat is a necessary discipline to call forth their physical energy and mutual co-operation. It is certainly true that something is wanting to unite and bring into action the interest and strength of the country, whether it is defeat and disgrace, or whether the patriotism of the subject should not be a more safe and noble substitute, is left to time and their own feelings to determine. For one, I do not hesitate to say

that no consideration but the rights and honor of my country, which are now at stake, shall ever be necessary to urge me to their defence, and shame on the man who, with an indifferent heart and supine hand, inclines to shrink from the glorious contest. If the interest, the honor of his country, his name as an American cannot command his ardor to act, in worth he is below the savage, in blood or example I hope allied to few. Let those who can leave their homes enroll themselves as volunteers under their country's banner; any partial deprivation ought not to deter. This will be ten times repaid in benefits to their posterity: union and mutual co-operation will save rivers of blood, speedily close the war, secure an honorable peace, prevent the burthen of a great war debt, and protect us against internal distraction and future insult and attack. Whenever it is my fortune to be exchanged I shall lose no time in advancing to their standard, and evince that I am as willing to act as to speak.

THOMPSON MEAD, Lieut.-Col.,
17th Regt., Detached Militia.

NOV. 18, 1812.

(From the Albany Argus, 30th March, 1813.)

John Chrystie, Lieut.-Colonel 13th United States Infantry, to General Thomas H. Cushing.

ALBANY, February 22nd, 1813.

SIR,—In obedience to orders of the 8th instant, requiring from me "a particular statement in relation to the affair at Queenston," I have the honor to transmit a journal of the incidents connected with that affair which fell under my observation.

On the 10th of October, 1812, I waited on Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick, commanding at Fort Niagara, to report my arrival on the evening of the 9th instant with a detachment of nearly 400 of the Thirteenth at the Four Mile Creek, in charge of military stores, and thirty-nine boats capable of carrying conveniently each thirty men. He informed me of an intended attack that night at Queenston, and I requested orders to join the corps designated for it. Such orders he was not authorized to give, but sent off an express that evening to procure them. They arrived (I have since learned) at Niagara about nine at night, but I was prevented by an accident from receiving them and my detachment was saved a night's march in a storm, and exposure and march the next day by which all the other regulars in that quarter were very considerably harassed, as, being without tents or camp equipage, they were obliged to keep on foot until they returned to their quarters. This intended attack,

in which my detachment was not originally included, was to have been conducted by Colonel Van Rensselaer and Captain Machesney at the head of a party of regulars, but was defeated by some mistake or treachery of a man in charge of the boats.

On the 11th (the storm still continued with unabated violence and the road still covered with stragglers from the different detachments of regulars which had marched the night before from Fort Niagara and its vicinity to Lewiston on the proposed expedition) I rode to General Van Rensselaer's encampment in order to report more particularly the detachment under my command, and to request a place in the next attempt, mentioning that I should like forty-eight hours for preparation, being myself an entire stranger to the country and the detachment being just off a long march expedition from Oswego, requiring some time for the issue of several articles of petit equipment and for putting themselves in the best condition. It was intimated to me that I should have a part in the first attack and that it would take place in a few days. On the 12th, about twelve o'clock, Colonel Van Rensselaer rode into my camp and informed me that I must march immediately to Lewiston, that he intended to attack at Queenston that night. The weather had cleared away early and at this time my tents were struck, every musket and lock taken to pieces and everything in the camp going through the process of police usual on such occasions. I was also informed that the provisions for that day had not yet been received from Fort Niagara and could not be before evening. Colonel Van Rensselaer stated, however, that we should be able to march to Lewiston early and that he would have rations ready for them there. We conversed about my waiving rank with him, which I told him was impossible, but as it was equally impossible for me to command in a night attack on a place that I had never seen, as I was informed it was a critical moment which must be used, and as I was not disinclined to yield as much as possible to an officer of established reputation, and as I was and knew my whole detachment to be anxious for an opportunity of seeing some actual service on any terms, I consented to take a part without interfering with his arrangements for it, and requested for myself only good guides and a landing in good order at the proper point. The detachment accordingly moved a little before five o'clock in the afternoon, and marched, or rather waded, to Lewiston, where we arrived some time before ten, and most of the men and some of the officers had their first meal for that day.

October 13th—At half-past three Colonel Van Rensselaer woke me and informed me that it was time to move. I formed the detachment, read to the officers General Van Rensselaer's orders for

the battle, and, conducted partly by a guide and by Colonel Van Rensselaer, marched to the river. On the way Colonel Van Rensselaer introduced my guide for the battle to me. Between four and five o'clock we embarked our first parties. The number of boats was eleven or twelve, I understood, averaging about twenty-five men each, being calculated to carry just half of our respective detachments at a time. The boats assigned to the detachment under my command were on the right, i. e., down the stream. Having embarked the first party and given orders to Captain Ogilvie to take charge of the embarkation of the next on the return of the boats, I chose the boat in which was my principal guide, one Hopkins, and a party selected agreeably to General Van Rensselaer's orders for the advanced guard of my detachment in the attack. The first that reached the Canada shore was the boat in which Captain Armstrong commanded ; Captain Malcolm and Lieutenant Hugunin being also on board, and the pilot being skilful returned immediately and gave Captain Ogilvie an opportunity of executing his orders in part. The boat to which I had committed myself (if the circumstances under which I embarked are appreciated, that phrase will not be deemed improper,) unhappily lost a rowlock on the right, which gave it a direction down stream, and although an officer, Lieut. Fink, remedied that evil in a great measure so far as the oar was concerned by holding it, the pilot wanted skill or presence of mind to alter his course, and, no one else knowing anything of the stream or point of landing, we were obliged to confide in him. Having in this manner gone farther down the stream than across it we soon fell below the others, and the fire of the left of the village was directed against this boat. The pilot, panic-struck, turned about, but, being ordered with severity to make the Canada shore at any point, he made another effort, *literally* groaning with fear. Hopkins, who was called on to assist him, was useless. The situation of a boat thus managed on a rapid stream when descending, not only subjected to the severest fire on the boats, which was decidedly from the left of the village (where they seemed prepared for accidents of this kind, or perhaps expected the principal debarkation below,) but also separated from the corps, may easily be imagined. It became necessary to take the steering oar from the boatman and return to the American shore. Here my guide, Hopkins, disappeared. Being several hundred yards below the point of embarkation, I returned on foot by the edge of the river, thinking I could more immediately procure a proper pilot and cross from that place. In the meantime the troops landed and formed immediately on the bank, about twenty paces or less from the river, under Colonel Van Rensselaer. Here a severe fire continued for a

few minutes, but having himself received several wounds, and no other person being acquainted with the forces or defences of the enemy or the topography of the village and its environs, he ordered the troops to fall below the bank, by which they were in a great degree covered. In this scene Lieut. Valleau and Ensign Morris of the Thirteenth, both men of the most estimable character, the latter quite a youth and of extraordinary promise, were killed; Lieut. Rathbone of the First Artillery, severely wounded, (since dead); Captains Armstrong and Malcolm of the Thirteenth and Ensign Lent of the Thirteenth severely wounded, and Captain Wool of the Thirteenth also wounded.

On my return to the upper ferry, I found there a scene of confusion hardly to be described. The enemy concentrated their fire upon our embarking place; no person being charged with directing the boats and embarkation or with the government of the boatmen, they forsook their duty. Persons unacquainted with the river (which was indeed the case with most of the militia who had been encamped at Lewiston several weeks, whereas *all* the regulars had been marched there that night,) would occasionally hurry into a boat as they could find one, cross and leave it on the shore, perhaps to go adrift or else to be brought back by the wounded and their attendants and others returning without order or permission, and these would land where they found it convenient and leave the boats where they landed. During this state of things (the day just beginning to break) Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick arrived with a party, consisting of Major Mullany's detachments of the 13th and 23rd and Captain Machesney's of the 6th. He found me at the river's side, anxiously endeavoring to procure boatmen, and was himself bitterly disappointed by the impossibility of crossing his detachment. Deeming it improper to expose his troops in such a situation without use, he counter-marched in the best order possible, but not without confusion owing to the narrowness of the ravine which led down to the river, and the severe fire of grape, canister and shells which was directed on it. It was about this period and from this fire that Captain Nelson of the 6th, a gentleman equally respected and esteemed in his official character and private life, was mortally wounded.

While things were in this state on the American shore, and partial and generally unsuccessful and ruinous attempts to cross were made by different officers, the troops that had crossed ascended, by order of Colonel Van R., the east side of the hill of Queenston. Captain Ogilvie has the merit with his companions of having led on this occasion. It was a few minutes after daylight when this movement, which was altogether unobserved by the enemy, was

made. Finding no work nor even a sentinel on the hill, they marched to the north side half-way down, which was a one-gun battery open in the rear. Near it were paraded their principal force, which our best intelligence makes to consist of two flank companies of the 49th, commanded by Captains Williams and Dennis. These fled on a single fire from the party in the rear on the height, but soon rallied and did not finally retreat until they had made two unsuccessful attempts to get possession of the hill. In this affair Captain Wool of the 13th, a gallant officer, commanded and displayed a firmness and activity in the highest degree honorable to him. Captain Ogilvie and 1st Lieut. Kearney of the 13th, 2nd Lieuts. Randolph of the Light Artillery and Carr and Hugunin of the 13th, and Ensign Reeb, were also highly distinguished. On the part of the British, General Brock and his aid, Col. McDonald, fell, both of the officers commanding the companies of the 49th were wounded, and they lost about twenty or thirty taken prisoners, most of them wounded. The affair ended in a few minutes after sunrise, and of the American party few men, and not an officer, was killed or wounded.

But it is necessary to state further particulars of the disasters attending the embarkation and crossing of the regulars at this period, as they were the great cause of the destruction and confusion of the regulars that day and of so small a number of them being engaged in the subsequent scenes.

It appears, then, that of four regular officers commanding corps who actually attempted to cross before this affair of the morning (all of them in different boats) not one succeeded. They were: Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick, Major Mullany, Captain Machesney and myself.

It appears also that five regular officers were taken prisoners immediately on landing, on the left of the village, their parties being almost entirely cut to pieces in their boats. These were: Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick, Lieuts. Phelps (13th) and Clark (23rd), which three were severely wounded, and Lieuts. Bailey (3rd Artillery) and Turner (13th Infantry.)

The names of several other officers might be mentioned who were defeated in their attempts to land at the proper point and were obliged to return.

Our best intelligence on this subject authorizes me to state that *at least* one hundred regulars were killed, wounded and taken prisoners on the left of the village, before or about sunrise.

About seven or a few minutes past seven o'clock I crossed, having for some time previous, as soon as crossing became practicable, collected different detachments and sent them over. I found

the senior officer there to be Captain Machesney of the 6th, who had, however, crossed but a few minutes before, under my orders. Being in expectation of an immediate attack of the enemy in force, I employed myself in disposing of the prisoners, which were still brought in, checking the disorders, to which some of the troops seemed inclined, and arranging the fragments of the different detachments of regulars in their proper order. The gun in the battery which has been mentioned, I found had been spiked by one of our own artillerists. In the course of an hour, in which I was momently expecting the approach of our main force with its artillery and equipage and supplies, a dragoon, who I suspect threw himself into our hands, was brought to me with a despatch addressed to the commanding officer at Fort George. It was from the commanding officer at Chippawa, stating that the corps (Colonel Scott's), which had laid opposite the day preceding, had moved, that everything was quiet there and that he was ready to move. After interrogating the bearer, I sent him in charge of an officer with the despatch to General Van Rensselaer. He was a native of the United States, personally known to one of our officers, and stated with great readiness and even interest that the enemy were already in motion from that quarter, consisting of regulars and Indians, principally the latter. This gave a favorable occasion for a movement in the direction of Chippawa and attacking this party on their march and preventing their junction with the main force from Fort George. But at Queenston everything was stagnant. No considerable or regular embarkation appeared to be making on the opposite shore. A large stone house on the left of the village remained still in possession of the enemy, with two light pieces of artillery, and as not a piece of artillery had yet been brought over it appeared impossible to attack it advantageously. After some time General Wadsworth appeared on the hill, thinking, as he told me, that his example might have a better effect than his orders in making the militia cross. He had seen the despatch above mentioned and was aware of the state of things on the hill. After some consultation he agreed that I should recross and represent it to General Van Rensselaer; this I did on meeting the General on the road, about half a mile from the river. He informed me that he had ordered Colonel Scott across and that he would himself cross in a short time. He ordered Captain Totten of the Engineers to repair to the opposite bank and lay out a fortified encampment, and caused the entrenching tools to be brought down with a view to be sent over, which, however, was neglected to be done. In the course of an hour, while the General was giving his directions to his staff and preparing for the passage of the river, a small and distant fire of musketry was heard. It

was evident that this attack was from the forces from Chippawa and that it was in fact the commencement of an action which must perhaps decide the fate of the campaign in that quarter. At least half the boats we had in the morning were lost or damaged; not half the troops had crossed, although it was by this time about eleven o'clock in the morning. Lieut.-Colonel Scott had not received orders to take his artillery across. Captain Gibson had taken but one piece—a circumstance attributable to the small size of the only boat calculated for the service—and on marching to the embarking place we found there a company of men very handsomely equipped, which was just on the point of entering the boats when this firing was heard, but had thereupon halted and now absolutely refused to cross, regarding neither the orders nor threats nor remonstrances of the General. Finding it useless to urge them further he crossed, Major Mullany joining us just as we went on board the boat. The instant we ascended the hill, seeing the regulars engaged three or four hundred yards from the river, near a wood, I hastened to that point, and urging my way directly to the front found there Lieut.-Colonel Scott, with a gallantry I cannot too much extol, leading and animating the troops. This officer had a few minutes before checked the first charge of the Indians and saved his troops from the disorder they had nearly been thrown into by the precipitate retreat of a party of militia. We soon reached the wood and penetrated some distance into it, but after some time it was represented to Colonel Scott that the Indians here presented no object for a charge, that while their fire was bloody ours produced a comparatively small effect; that the wood was not so desirable a position as one about two hundred yards nearer the river, and, the intervening space being cleared, the attacks of the Indians must be made in the open field and would of course be easily repelled, and we might take the order and position intended in the expected engagement. This change of position being approved by him was made gradually and with care, small detachments being ordered to move to different points in rear, as with a view to meet other attacks, Colonel Scott and myself remaining to the last. After this movement had been accomplished, the fire of the Indians was of course less general and fatal, but it was never intermitted during the remainder of the day. About the time of this movement the first detachments of the British army were seen at a great distance on the plain on their march from Fort George. Meanwhile our numbers instead of increasing were diminishing. The boat in which General Van Rensselaer came over returned immediately full of men, who had concealed themselves under the bank for the purpose of seizing opportunities to recross, and had

embarked in his presence, and I understand they even crowded into the very boat in which he afterwards returned with a view to bring over his principal force, which was still on the American shore. At about a quarter of an hour after two o'clock in the afternoon the British troops paraded in front of us, we being forced on the edge of the hill—the village in our rear, the river on our left and a bush cantonment on our right. In this were disposed a number of regulars and a small party of volunteer riflemen, under Lieutenant Smith of the militia, who was highly distinguished by his activity and courage. These served to keep the Indians in check, though they still maintained a galling fire on the right flank. My opinion of the British force, founded on my own observation and subsequent information, is that they had from four to five hundred regulars, with four pieces of artillery, from five to six hundred militia and three hundred Indians. Our whole force under arms at this time was less than three hundred, with but one piece of artillery and not a dozen rounds for it, yet I am well persuaded a retreat, much less a surrender, was not thought of, and that the troops were in fact in as high spirits as if we had been superior. Such was the state of things when a note from General Van Rensselaer to General Wadsworth arrived, commanding him to save his troops, informing him that not a regiment or company would move to reinforce us, that he had himself seen the movements of the enemy and knew we were overpowered, and that he would endeavor to furnish boats and cover our retreat. He added in a postscript that General Wadsworth might nevertheless govern himself according to circumstances under his more immediate view. General Wadsworth called together the senior officers of corps, read this letter and asked their opinions. Nothing was decided on. Meanwhile the enemy, manœuvering with great caution if not with some hesitation, moved in force by their right towards the river in such a way as to reconnoitre our whole front and left in part, always skirting the woods and presenting themselves in line on our right flank. During these marches and countermarches of the enemy we were consulting and at last determined to avail ourselves of the possibility of retreating suggested in General Van Rensselaer's letter. It was designed accordingly to throw our right on the road leading from the hill to the village, and form with the river in our rear. To do this it was necessary to march by the left, which brought the militia in front of the column. They soon broke on the commencement of the enemy's fire, and a perfect rout ensued. Not a boat being ready nor any appearance of an attempt to bring them, we surrendered; were taken to the village of Queenston and treated with the greatest delicacy and humanity by General Sheaffe.

The wounded were attended to here, the prisoners, private soldiers, were collected and marched to Newark, and after being about an hour in the village we marched with a guard, which was necessary to protect us from the Indians, to Fort George. We arrived there just at dark.

(From Armstrong's Notices of the War of 1812, Vol. I., pp. 207-219.)

BROWN'S POINT, October 14th, 1812.

About half an hour before daylight yesterday morning, Tuesday, the 13th October, being stationed at one of the batteries between Fort George and Queenston, I heard a heavy cannonading from Fort Gray, situate on the height of the mountain on the American side and commanding the town of Queenston.

The lines had been watched with all the care and attention which the extent of our force rendered possible, and such was the fatigue which our men underwent from want of rest and exposure that they welcomed with joy the prospect of a field action that they thought would be decisive. Their spirits were high and their confidence in the General unbounded.

From our battery at Brown's Point, about two miles from Queenston, we had the whole scene most completely in our view.

Day was just glimmering.

The cannon from both sides of the river roared incessantly.

Queenston was illuminated by the continual discharge of small arms.

This last circumstance convinced us that some of the enemy had landed, and in a few moments, as the day advanced and objects became more visible, we saw a number of Americans in boats attempting to land upon our shore, amidst a tremendous shower of shot of all descriptions which was skilfully and unceasingly levelled at them.

No orders had been given to Captain Cameron, who commanded our detachment of York militia, what conduct to pursue in case of an attack at Queenston, and as it had been suggested to him that in the event of a landing being attempted there the enemy would probably endeavor by various attacks to distract our force, he hesitated at first as to the propriety of withdrawing his men from the station assigned them to defend.

He soon saw, however, that every exertion was required in aid of the troops engaged above us, and without further delay marched to the scene of action. On our road General Brock passed us. He had galloped from Niagara unaccompanied by his aide-de-camp or a single attendant.

He waved his hand to us, desired us to follow with expedition, and proceeded with all speed to the mountain. Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell and Captain Glegg passed immediately after. At the time the enemy began to cross there were but two companies of the 49th Regiment, the grenadiers and the light company, and I believe three small companies of militia, to oppose them.

Their reception was such as did honor to the courage and management of our troops.

The grape shot and musket balls poured upon them at close quarters as they approached the shore and made incredible havoc.

A single discharge of grape from a brass six-pounder, directed by Captain Dennis of the 49th grenadiers, destroyed fifteen in a boat.

Three of the batteaux landed at the hollow below Mr. Hamilton's garden in Queenston, and were met by a party of militia and a few regulars, who slaughtered almost the whole of them, taking the rest prisoners.

Several other boats were so shattered and disabled that the men in them threw down their arms and came on shore merely to deliver themselves up as prisoners of war

Thus far things had proceeded successfully, and the General on his approach to the mountain was greeted with the intelligence that all our villainous aggressors were destroyed or taken.

As we advanced with our company we met troops of Americans on their way to Fort George under guard, and the road was lined with miserable wretches, suffering under wounds of all descriptions and crawling to our houses for protection and comfort. The spectacle struck us, who were unused to such scenes, with horror, but we hurried to the mountain, impressed with the idea that the enemy's attempt was already frustrated and the business of the day nearly completed.

Another brigade of four boats was just then crossing and the 49th light company, who had been stationed on the mountain, were ordered down to assist in preventing their landing. No sooner had they descended than the enemy appeared in force above them. They had probably landed before the rest, while it was yet dark, and remained concealed by the rough crags of the mountain.

They possessed themselves of our battery on the height.

General Brock rushed up the mountain on foot with some troops to dislodge them, but they were so advantageously posted and kept up so tremendous a fire that the small number ascending were driven back.

The General then rallied [his troops] and was proceeding up the right of the mountain to attack them in flank when he received

a ball in his breast. Several of the 49th assembled around him. One poor fellow was severely wounded by a cannon ball and fell across the General.

They succeeded, however, in conveying his body to Queenston.

We were halted a few minutes in Mr. Hamilton's garden, where we were exposed to the shot from the American battery at Fort Gray and from several field-pieces directly opposite to us, besides an incessant and disorderly fire of musketry from the sides of the mountain.

In a few minutes we were directed to advance on the mountain. The nature of the ground and the galling fire prevented any kind of order in ascending. We soon scrambled to the top at the right of the battery which they had gained and were in some measure covered by the woods. There we stood and gathered the men as they advanced and formed them in a line.

The fire was too hot to admit of delay. Scarcely more than fifty men were collected, about thirty of whom were of our company, headed by Captain Cameron, and the remainder of the 49th light company, commanded by Captain Williams.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell was there, mounted, and animating the men to charge. He was seconded with great spirit and valor by Captain Williams, who exclaimed: "Feel firmly to the right, advance steadily, charge them home and they cannot stand you."

But the attempt was unsuccessful.

The enemy were just in front, covered by bushes and logs. They were in no kind of order and were three or four hundred in number. They perceived us forming, and at about thirty yards distance fired. Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell, who was on the left of our party most heroically calling upon us to advance, received a shot in his body and fell. His horse was at the same instant killed.

Captain Williams, who was at the other extremity of our little band, fell apparently dead.

The remainder of our men advanced a few paces, discharged their pieces and retired down the mountain.

Lieutenant McLean was wounded in the thigh and Captain Cameron, in his attempt to save Colonel Macdonell, exposed himself to a shower of musketry which he almost miraculously escaped.

He succeeded in bearing off his friend, and Captain Williams recovered from the momentary effect of the wound in his head in time to escape down the mountain. This happened, I think, about 10 a. m.

Our forces rallied about a mile below.

General Sheaffe with the 41st from Fort George, nearly three

hundred in number, came up soon after with the field-pieces of the car-brigade.

All the force that could be collected was now mustered and marched through the fields back of Queenston, ascended the mountain on the right and remained in the woods in rear of the enemy till intelligence was gained of their position. During this time the Americans were landing fresh troops unmolested, and carrying back their dead and wounded in their return boats.

About three o'clock p. m. General Sheaffe advanced through the woods towards the battery on the mountain with the main body, composed of the 41st and Niagara militia flank companies (with field pieces) on the right. The Mohawk Indians, under Captain Norton, and a Niagara company of blacks proceeded along the brow of the mountain on the left, and the light company of the 49th with our company of militia broke through the centre. In this manner we rushed through the woods to the encamping ground on the mountain, which the enemy then occupied and which had been the scene of their morning's success. The Indians were first in advance. As soon as they perceived the enemy they uttered their terrific warwhoop, and rushing rapidly upon them commenced a most destructive fire. Our troops instantly sprung forward from all quarters, joining in the shout. The Americans gave a volley, then tumultuously fled by hundreds down the mountain. At that moment Captain Bullock, and one hundred and fifty of the 41st and two flank companies of militia, appeared, advancing on the road from Chippawa. The consternation of the enemy was complete. Though double in number they stopped not to withstand their pursuers, but fled with the utmost precipitation. Never were men more miserably situated. They had no place to retreat to and were driven by a furious and avenging enemy, from whom they had little mercy to expect, to the brink of the mountain which overhangs the river. They fell in numbers—the river presented a horrid spectacle, filled with poor wretches who plunged into the stream from the impulse of fear, with scarcely the prospect of being saved. Many leaped down the side of the mountain to avoid the horrors which pressed on them, and were dashed in pieces by the fall. The fire from the American batteries ceased.

Two officers were now seen coming up the hill with a white flag, and with some difficulty the slaughter was suspended. They were conducted up the mountain to General Sheaffe. A cessation of hostilities was asked for and assented to. Thus, about four p. m., ended the business of this day, so important to the inhabitants of this province. The invasion of our peaceful shores by its unprincipled neighbors has terminated in the entire loss of their army,

with everything brought over, not excepting their standards with the very modest device of an eagle perched upon the globe.

We have taken over nine hundred prisoners, with sixty of their officers. Except the wounded men, who were carried over in their boats while they retained possession of the mountain, scarcely a man has straggled back to relate to his country the disastrous event of an expedition planned by their unrighteous Government.

The view of dead bodies which strewed the ground, and the mangled carcasses of poor suffering mortals, who filled every room in the village, filled us with compassion.

Still we have much to sorrow for: we have a loss to deplore which the most brilliant success cannot atone for. That General who led our army to victory, whose soul was wrapped up in our prosperity, is now shrouded in death.

Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell, too! This heroic young man, the constant attendant of the General, after his fall strove to support to the last a cause never to be despaired of, because it involved the very salvation of his country.

But he was not destined to witness its triumph. His career was short, but honorable, his end was premature, but full of glory.

He will be buried at the same time as the General.

(From Lady Edgar's Ten Years of Upper Canada, pp. 150-6.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 14th Oct., 1812.

D. G. O.

Major-General Sheaffe offers his best thanks to the troops for the bravery and good conduct so evidently displayed by all ranks and descriptions in the action of yesterday, which terminated in the complete overthrow of the enemy: their General with many officers and above 800 men having been made prisoners, a considerable number killed and wounded and a stand of colors, with a six-pounder, taken. This brilliant success is, however, clouded by the ever to be lamented death of Major-General Brock, who gloriously fell whilst foremost in the ranks gallantly cheering his troops when opposing far superior numbers. The zeal, ability and valor with which he served his King and country render this a public loss that must be long deplored, and his memory will live in the hearts and affections of those who had an opportunity of being acquainted with his private worth.

Major-General Sheaffe has also to regret that Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Provincial A. D. C. to Major-General Brock, whose gal-

lantry and merit rendered him worthy of his chief, received a wound in the action which there is reason to believe will prove mortal.

All arms, accoutrements, ammunition, and articles whatsoever of a public nature, taken from the enemy in the action of yesterday, are to be delivered into the ordnance store without delay.

In consequence of the death of Major-General Brock, the command of His Majesty's troops serving in the Province of Upper Canada devolves on Major-General Sheaffe, to whom all reports and communications will be made accordingly.

By order,
THOS. EVANS, B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 15th Oct., 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers will take upon himself the superintendence of the force on the line from Fort George to Chippawa inclusive; all reports and details for that portion of the Niagara District are to be made to him, and for the greater facility and despatch of the public service Major-General Shaw, acting as Colonel of Militia and commanding between Chippawa and the Sugar Loaf, will be pleased to report to and communicate with Major-General Sheaffe through Lieut.-Colonel Myers as Deputy Quartermaster General.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS.

Major Thomas Evans to ———

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FORT GEORGE,
Oct. 15th, 1812.

After dinner on the evening of the 11th inst., Major-General Brock handed me a note from Captain Dennis, commanding the flank companies of the 49th Regiment at Queenston. After perusing its contents, which were of an alarming nature, setting forth the highly mutinous state of his detachment, his men having deliberately threatened to shoot their officers, &c., the General said: "Evans, you will proceed early in the morning and investigate this business, and march as prisoners in here half a dozen of those most culpable and I will make an example of them. You can also cross the river and tell Van Rensselaer I expect he will immediately exchange the prisoners taken in the *Detroit* and *Caledonia* for an equal number of Americans I released after the capture of Detroit.

I reached Queenston early in the morning of the 12th, and finding many of the grenadier company confined and the guard

house gutted, and Captain Dennis himself in apparent alarm at the state of things, I proposed proceeding at once to select those most prominent for example. At this juncture, however, and when about leaving Hamilton's house, a scattered fire of musquetry from the American shore took place, and, on a musket ball entering the room and passing betwixt us, I inquired with surprise the meaning of such unusual insolence. Captain Dennis stating the practice to have existed more or less for some days, insomuch as to render ingress by the river door hazardous, I deemed it fitting first to cross the river, desiring Captain Dennis would prepare his men against my return. On passing along the river bank for Mr. T. Dickson's, the enemy kept up an incessant fire of musquetry till I entered that gentleman's house, but happily without mischief. I now begged Mrs. Dickson kindly to prepare a white handkerchief as a flag of truce, asking Mr. Dickson, who was a captain of militia, would he accompany me across the water; he had no objection, but both Mrs. Dickson and all present urged the danger of any attempt to cross, convinced, as they were, in the enemy's then temper the flag would not be respected. Feeling this to be no time for discussing about personal safety, I took Dickson by one hand and the flag in the other, then descending the precipitous steep to the water's edge, we landed our frail canoe amidst an unsparing shower of shot which fell around us, nor did the firing cease until the canoe became quite unmanageable, tossed about in the waters of the strong eddies, when, as if struck by shame at his dastardly attempt to deter us from our purpose, the enemy gave the signal to cease fire. I was thus relieved (and enabled) on approaching the shore to observe more calmly all that was passing. On touching the ground, with water in the leaky canoe ankle deep, I was about, as was my custom, leaping ashore, when a sentinel from a guard brought to the spot came to the charge with fixed bayonet, authoritatively commanding me not to leave the boat. To my enquiry for Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, (the Adjutant-General,) with whom I usually conferred, I was told he was sick. I then stated having an important message from General Brock for their commander, which, if inconvenient for their General to receive from me personally, I begged an official person might be deputed to convey it to him. After some delay, Mr. Lovett, the General's secretary, made his appearance, but his reply to General Brock's request being abrupt, and as I thought somewhat significant—" that nothing could be done till the day after to-morrow," I ventured to remind him of General Brock's liberality towards their people which the fortune of war had thrown into his hands, entreating that he would again consult his general and enable me to carry to mine something more satisfac-

tory. In compliance, as he stated with my wishes, but as it appeared to me more with the intent to consume my time, rendered precious from its being after midday, he detained me in my miserable position for more than two hours, and then returned expressing the General's regret, "that the prisoners having been marched for Albany they could not instantly be brought back, but that all should be settled to their mutual satisfaction the day after to-morrow." I was now too anxious to depart to wish the parley prolonged, my mind being quite made up as to the enemy's intentions, and to the course it was most fitting for me to pursue under the circumstances. It had not escaped me that their saucy numbers had been prodigiously swelled by a horde of half-savage troops from Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee, which evidently made it hazardous for their northern countrymen to show their accustomed respect for a flag of truce from a foe, but my most important discovery was their boats slung in the sides or fissures on the river bank, covered only by the brush, with indeed many decided indications that an attack on our shores could not be prudently delayed for a single day. Under such impressions the first thing on reaching our own side was the removal by Mr. Dickson of his family from his own house on the beach, the very site of the prospective struggle, and giving note of preparation to the few militia which, with the 49th flank companies, were all the immediate disposable force for the defence of Queenston. Aware of the imminence and magnitude of the danger, the lateness of the hour, after three p. m., and distance from Fort George, headquarters, more than six miles, I hesitated not assuming the responsibility of liberating all the 49th prisoners on the specious plea of their offence proceeding from a too free indulgence in drink, appealing to them for proof of their loyalty and courage, which they were assured would be severely tested ere another day dawned. Then, after a rapid but effective arrangement of the several points requiring attention, seeing to the re-supply of fresh ammunition and infusing all the spirit and animation in my power to impart, I left Captain Dennis, exhorting his utmost diligence in keeping his charge on the alert for repelling the enemy's attempt, which I foresaw would not be deferred. Having to put the many posts on the line of communication on the *qui vive*, although I rode at full speed it was past six p. m. ere I reached Fort George, and then, from having been exposed for thirteen hours, under much anxiety, to wet feet and extreme heat without refreshment of any kind, I was so exhausted as to be unequal to further immediate effort. Refreshed, I narrated to General Brock all that had occurred, the precautionary steps I had taken and the responsibility I had assumed as to the 49th prisoners, which, under the stated circum-

stances, I trusted he would approve and at once authorize my making preparations for coming events, so indispensably required. The General, evidently doubting at first, hesitated, but seeing my earnestness in rebuking his attendants of their charging me of being over sanguine, and chagrin at their proffered bets against my predictions, he became unusually grave, desired I would follow him to the office, where I succinctly recapitulated the day's occurrences, adding my solemn conviction that a moment was not to be lost in effectually preparing for defence.

The General now thanked me, approved of all that I had done, and returning to the dining room directed officials to be immediately written, and despatched by Provincial Dragoons, calling in the militia of the vicinity that same evening, those more distant to follow with alacrity. I was directed to make all requisite preparations at headquarters. In this work I was busied till near eleven p. m., with but few converts, however, to my convictions, when, worn down by fatigue, I stretched myself on my mattress. After a slumber of a few hours I was aroused by a distant cannonade soon after two a. m., 13th October, but without surprise, well knowing the quarter whence the ominous sound came. The General, who himself had all in readiness, at once mounted his horse and proceeded for the post attacked. His aides-de-camp were awoke and soon followed. Major-General Sheaffe, second in command, assumed charge at headquarters, but the impression on General Brock's mind being that the attempt on Queenston would prove only a feint to disguise his (the enemy's) real object from the creek in rear of Fort Niagara, his apparent wish was that whilst all were held in readiness to act in any quarter, no decisive movement by the troops should take place till the enemy's intentions were fully developed. The Indians and regular artillery were, however, promptly despatched and the *elite* of the 41st, with an equal number of well-drilled militia flank companies ready to follow on the first summons. As the day dawned, the scouts I had sent out reporting no symptoms of hostile movement in the quarter indicated, these troops all proceeded at double quick for the succor of Queenston, the debouching of the head of which column on the main road appeared to be the signal for opening a brisk cannonade from Fort Niagara on the troops, the town and fort.

Soon after, the news of the gallant Brock's unhappy fall reached us, which, by necessarily removing General Sheaffe to Queenston, the command at Fort George devolved on me as next senior officer. At this moment the scene around was awfully discouraging, the gaol and court house were suddenly wrapped in flames, which, as containing many political prisoners, I at first imagined the act of an

incendiary, but other buildings soon appearing in a similar state of conflagration left me no longer in doubt as to the new enemy of hot shot with which we had to grapple, and its easy distance on wooden edifices I foresaw must be attended with very destructive effect. Luckily a *posse* of militia men had now come in, which I distributed in separate bodies, collecting all the water buckets and requisite implements from the inhabitants of the town.

This arrangement, though in part effective from the energy and courage displayed in extinguishing the flames as they occurred, I felt to be insufficient in itself for our security: selecting therefore all the old veteran militia artillery men, with two intelligent staff non-commissioned officers of the 41st, by bending our whole efforts to the attainment of one object we at length succeeded in stopping the mischief by diminishing and crippling the enemy's guns, but not before he had burnt to the ground many buildings, amongst the number, besides the gaol and court house, the chief engineer's quarters; the more important ones, however, the "royal barracks," "block house," "king's stores" and other public buildings, though repeatedly fired, were by steady and untiring intrepidity preserved. Thus temporarily relieved I was enabled to attend to Captain Derenzy's (commanding 41st Batt.) note, from which it appeared he found on arriving at Queenston the enemy in possession of the opposite heights and our heavy one-gun battery there; that the enfilading one on our side, too distant from the landing to be quite effective, had been powerfully aided by Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery, who, unmindful of consequences, boldly dashed his gun through the valley into Hamilton's court yard within point blank range, thus succeeding in sinking some of the enemy's crowded boats and damping the ardor of his troops for crossing. Seeing his critical position Captain Derenzy had sustained him by a party of the 41st Regiment. He briefly mentioned that the spirited Brock, finding on his arrival the 49th grenadiers and militia, though resolutely defending the landing place, hard pressed, had called to their aid the 49th light company from the heights' summit, the key to the position. The enemy, profiting by this step, moved unperceived about 150 men over a precipitous steep it was deemed impracticable for a human being to ascend, who suddenly appeared to the astonished General just on the mountain summit, and the next instant in possession of the redoubt, putting its defenders to the sword. The gallant spirit of Brock, ill brooking to be thus foiled, with a courage deserving a better fate, hastily collected the weak 49th company and a few militia; debouching from a stone building at the mountain's brow with these little bands, he spiritedly strove to regain his lost position, but in which daring attempt he was killed

by a rifle ball entering under the left breast, passing out by the right shoulder. Captain Williams by taking a wider range made a second effort, but, as the result proved, with too inadequate a force, the A. D. C. (Macdonell) being mortally wounded and Captain Williams's head partially scalped by a rifle ball.

These circumstances convinced me that General Sheaffe would be more circumspect than attack without a concentration of every disposable man. Under such impressions, after first despatching Lieut. McIntyre, 41st Regiment, with about 140 men of his regiment and militia, and afterwards Wm. Martin with every regular soldier and a few active militia from Fort George, I hastened to forward, at all hazards, the most active of the men from the many posts on the line of communication. On starting those from Young's battery, the enemy, as though by signal, re-opened his cannonade from Fort Niagara on Fort George and the town. However mortified by this unlooked for occurrence, prudence required that whilst sending our whole effective force to Queenston, Fort George and its dependencies should not be neglected, for what with the aliens and prisoners in the blockhouse, with those set at liberty by firing the gaol, their number was little short of 300, with but a few raw militia left for their security or that of the fort and town. I was therefore left no alternative but to gallop back and ascertain the enemy's power for further mischief. Well it was that I did so, for on reaching the gate of Fort George I met a crowd of militia with consternation in their countenances, exclaiming the magazine was on fire. Knowing it to contain 800 barrels of powder with vent side walls, not an instant was to be lost. Captain Vigoreux of the Engineers therefore, at my suggestion, was promptly on its roof, which movement was with alacrity followed by the requisite number of volunteers, when, by the tin being stripped off, the blazing wood was extinguished. Thus was confidence reassured. The enemy, taking advantage of a bend in the river, had brought a battery with hot shot to enfilade the barracks, magazine and king's stores, and despite all our efforts to dislodge him he had effectively consumed the storehouses with all the lower buildings, and repeatedly set on fire the barracks and magazine. Our success was perfect; the enemy's fire being again silenced and the necessary precautions taken to avert future disaster, I made another effort to reach Queenston, when I met Captain Chambers, 41st Regiment, with the glad tidings that General Sheaffe, by a spirited and judicious movement away to his right, and crossing the vale high up, with his collected forces had approached as to ground his enemy on more favorable terms, and that his operations had resulted in the enemy's complete destruction. But for the details of this brilliant

success I must refer to the despatches of the distinguished officer who, with his gallant troops, achieved it.

(From "Laura Secord and Other Poems" by Mrs. S. A. Curzon, Appendix No. 1, pp. 201-6.)

(From the Quebec Mercury, 27th October, 1812.)

Extract of a letter from Upper Canada, dated Brown's Point, Niagara, 15th October, 1812.

I little expected when I last wrote to you that I should now be able to give you an account of an engagement which, tho' it terminated in our favor, we shall ever have to lament. Our loss, tho' small in point of numbers, is of the most important kind. We have to deplore the loss of our beloved General and his gallant Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Macdonnell. General Brock, to whom no language is capable of giving the merited praise, fell in the beginning of the action, having received a shot in the breast.

The York Volunteers, to whom he was particularly partial, have the honor of claiming his last words. Immediately before he received his death-wound, he cried out to some persons near him to push on the York Volunteers, which were the last words he uttered. Having said so much on a subject which cannot fail to call forth the regret of every individual in the Canadas, I think it is now time to give you some account of the engagement. At four o'clock in the morning of the 13th inst., the Americans were seen attempting to cross the river at Queenston, and immediately a fire commenced upon them from our battery, which did great execution. The Americans, however, pushed forward and succeeded in effecting a landing, tho' their loss was immense. In several boats all were killed but two or three men. In the meantime, while this party was so strongly opposed by the grenadiers of the 49th and some companies of militia, a large body of Americans landed immediately under the face of the mountain without being discovered, their boats having pushed off from Lewiston with troops. The 49th light company, who were advantageously posted on the mountain to oppose the Americans in case they attempted to take possession of it, were called down by the bugle to oppose the landing of the boats. When the Americans discovered the 49th going down the hill they immediately ascended the cliffs and took one of the batteries, which, fortunately for us, they found could not be turned against the town. They then took possession of the top of the mountain, and a part of the 49th flankers and a part of the Yorkers were ordered to go up the mountain, and attack the enemy in flank if possible. Captain Cameron, J. Robinson, Stanton and myself immediately proceeded

under a most galling fire with part of our men to the top of the mountain, where we found Captain Williams of the 49th with some of his men. We immediately formed (about seventy in number) to charge the enemy, exposed at the same time to a sharp fire from them. After forming and advancing a little distance we found that the enemy had posted themselves behind trees, so that a charge would have very little effect upon them. We then separated, and each man posting himself behind a tree we kept up a smart fire upon them for some time. Colonel Macdonnell, who had joined us on horseback when forming for the charge, while in the act of encouraging the men was shot from his horse, and not long after Capt. Williams received a wound in the head. I was at that time within ten yards of them, and I supposed they were both killed. I was, however, glad to see them get up in a short time, and discovered that they were wounded.

Colonel Macdonnell's horse was first wounded, and in his pain he wheeled and his gallant rider was shot in the back. When he was wounded and could be of no further service he, of course, thought it prudent to retire to a place of safety. Captain Cameron assisted him along for some distance, and while helping him a ball grazed his arm and gave him so much pain he supposed himself wounded. Mr. Macdonnell then let go Mr. Cameron and ran alone to where I was. He then called out to me, "Help me." I immediately gave him my arm, and after proceeding a few paces, while thousands of balls whistled around us, I received one in the thigh. Mr. Cameron, who found it was only a bruise which he had received, just then came up and assisted Colonel Macdonell down the mountain. He lived till yesterday morning, in the most excruciating pain. His remains are to be interred to-morrow in the same grave with General Brock. If ever honor belonged to mortals these valiant, these gallant heroes have it in abundance. They died fighting gloriously in an honorable cause, but still to Canada their deaths are an irreparable loss. The Americans now got possession of the mountain and remained quietly there for some time, but General Sheaffe arriving from Niagara with a detachment of the 41st of about three hundred men, some militia and about two hundred and fifty Indians, and being joined by all that we could collect of the troops who were previously engaged, in all not exceeding 800, they ascended the mountain some distance to the right of the Americans, who were now in great numbers in the top.

The Indians, being most active in climbing up, first came in contact with the enemy and drove him before them for some distance. The Americans, however, soon rallied, and drove the Indians in their turn. Our troops coming up at the same time opened so

good a fire upon the enemy that they were again obliged to retreat. They were immediately pursued by the Indians and our force shouting and hollowing as loud as they could. The Americans now gave way on all sides, some attempting to swim across the river, who were drowned or killed by our shot. A white flag was immediately hoisted by the Americans, and they surrendered prisoners of war.

(From file in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

(The author of this letter was apparently Lieut. McLean of the York Militia.

Narrative of Volunteer G. S. Jarvis, 49th Regiment.

On retiring to the north end of the village on the Niagara road our little band was met by General Brock, attended by his A. D. C., Major Glegg and Colonel Macdonell. He was loudly cheered as he cried: "Follow me, boys!" and led us at a pretty smart trot towards the mountain; checking his horse to a walk, he said: "Take breath, boys, we shall want it in a few minutes!" Another cheer was the hearty response, both from the regulars and militia. At that time the top of the mountain and a great portion of its side was thickly covered with trees and was now occupied by American riflemen. On arriving at the foot of the mountain, where the road diverges to St. David's, General Brock dismounted and waving his sword climbed over a high stone wall, followed by the troops; placing himself at the head of the light company of the 49th, he led the way up the mountain at double quick time in the very teeth of a sharp fire from the enemy's riflemen, and ere long he was singled out by one of them, who, coming forward, took deliberate aim and fired; several of the men noticed the action and fired—but too late—and our gallant General fell on his left side, within a few feet of where I stood. Running up to him I enquired, "Are you much hurt, Sir?" He placed his hand on his breast and made no reply, and slowly sunk down. The 49th now raised a shout, "Revenge the General!" and regulars and militia, led by Colonel Macdonell, pressed forward, anxious to revenge the fall of their beloved leader, and literally drove a superior force up the mountain side to a considerable distance beyond the summit. The flank companies of the York militia, under Captains Cameron and Heward and Lieutenants Robinson, McLean and Stanton, besides many others whose names I forget, eminently distinguished themselves on this occasion.

At this juncture the enemy were reinforced, and after a severe struggle, in which Colonel Macdonell, Captains Dennis and Williams and most of our officers were either killed or wounded, we were overpowered by numbers and forced to retreat, as the enemy had

outflanked us and had nearly succeeded in gaining our rear. Several of our men were thus cut off and made prisoners, myself among the number.

(From G. Auchinleck's History of the War of 1812, p.———)

(From the Quebec Mercury, Tuesday, 27th October, 1812.)

Extract of a letter from Fort George, dated 14th October, 1812:

His Majesty's arms gained a complete victory over those of the United States yesterday in a very brilliant affair, which lasted from break of day until half-past two p. m. The enemy had landed a considerable body of men under the mountain at Queenston in the night, which had not been perceived by our troops until a short time before daylight, when by a spirited fire upon their boats we succeeded in destroying four of them and a scow full of troops. Many were drowned and the remainder of the party surrendered. By this time intelligence was received of their actual landing. Directions were given to destroy [Fort] Niagara, and a party advanced with two six-pounders and a howitzer. On reaching Queenston the enemy were found in possession of the place, the town evacuated by our troops, our dear brave General Brock killed and in their possession. No time was to be lost: our party dashed forward and in less than an hour dislodged the enemy from the town and forced him to the summit of the mountain. We sustained the fire of two mortars, four eighteen-pounders and two six-pounders from their side of the river. Their mortars and six-pounders were silenced three different times, but the 18-pounder battery on the summit of the mountain was out of range. Owing to our fire the enemy was in a great degree prevented from reinforcing his strength, though not altogether, as they occasionally pushed over boats filled with troops. We kept our ground the whole day, and as their left flank was attacked by the Indians, supported by the regulars and militia, their right was kept in check, and they soon were obliged to abandon their six-pounder, which fell into our hands. A severe engagement becoming general in the meantime, a brisk fire was kept up of *spherical* case, which threw them into confusion, and at that moment the Indians gave a screech and we returning it with three cheers, they took to their heels, and soon were well paid for their temerity—as they descended to reach their boats shrapnels were fired into them.

An officer with two epaulettes held up his pocket handkerchief. We received him just in time to save him from the Indians. He was second in command: his name Colonel Scott, of the 2nd Regi-

ment of Artillery. General Wadsworth was also taken, and in fact all their army killed, wounded and prisoners.

The men in our battery behaved well, particularly Acting-Sergeant Ellerton and Bombadier Robinson, as did Bombadier Phemeram on the mountain. Gunner Birch was killed, Hunt badly wounded, and Gunner Granger had his leg shot off by an 18-pounder shot. A captain of militia was of much service in the battery.

We have upwards of 800 prisoners, and the killed and wounded of the enemy may be estimated at about 350. Our loss is very small in comparison : in killed, Indians 6 : 41st Regiment, 2: 49th about 9 ; militia, not yet known. Our spherical case shot was of great use. Captain Vigoreux of the engineers volunteered his services, and commanded one of the batteries against the enemy's fort. He succeeded in silencing them and dismounting one gun. The enemy fired hot shot from their fort, which consumed the court house and and a tanner's house in town, and struck the roof of our magazine in the fort, which took fire but was soon put out.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

(From "The War," New York, 31st October, 1812.)

THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON.

During the whole affair the British kept up a constant fire from their batteries at Fort George, Fort Erie and opposite Black Rock, and at the latter place a bomb unfortunately fell upon a barrel of powder which blew up and set fire to the barracks, which, with some of the furs taken in the *Caledonia*, were consumed. Our batteries set fire to the gaol and also to a brew-house at Newark, on the British side, both of which were burnt down. It appears that the British were perfectly apprised of the intentions of our troops to cross, and it is stated that a letter was found in the pocket of a British officer who was killed, from another at Chippawa, informing of the intention of the Americans to cross, the time at which they might be expected and their probable force. The letter is said to be in the possession of General Van Rensselaer.

Captain Ogilvie of the 13th Regiment, who led the detachment that succeeded in taking the redoubt upon the heights, has arrived in this city and has furnished the following particulars :

A detachment from the 13th Regiment, consisting of about 300 men, under the command of Colonel Chrystie, and about 300 militia commanded by Colonel Van Rensselaer, received orders from the General to cross the Niagara River on the morning of the 13th inst., which was in part effected before day, under a very heavy and de-

structive fire of grape and musket shot from the British, who, it appears, were apprised of the attack.

In crossing the river three boats with troops, one of which contained Lieut.-Colonel Chrystie, were carried by the rapid current far below the point of landing, and as soon as Colonel Chrystie's boat touched the shore the only guide to the ground left the Colonel.

In consequence of this disaster not more than 200 men at first effected a landing. These few, however, marched on under a heavy fire and formed a line in front of the battery where they were sheltered by a bank, upon the summit of which there was a battery which had proved very destructive to officers and men. From the fire of this battery and that of a house on the right bank, Colonel Van Rensselaer was wounded and likewise Captain Lawrence, Capt. Wool and Lieut. Lent, and, killed, Lieut. Valleau and Ensign Morris, all of the 13th. Colonel Van Rensselaer after he was wounded urged the troops to storm the heights.

Sixty determined men, led by Captain Ogilvie seconded by Captain Wool (though wounded) and Lieut. Kearney, Lieut. Carr, Lieut. Hugulin, Lieut. Sammons and Ensign Reve [Reab ?] of the 13th, Lieut. Randolph and Lieut. Gansevoort circuitously onto the heights, gave three cheers and instantly charged, and after the third charge gained complete possession, which they kept about six hours. Among those sixty were ten militia. During the time they were possessed of the heights they had some reinforcement, and Lieut.-Colonel Chrystie effected his landing, and a body of militia, amounting in the whole to about 500. Colonel Scott superseded Captain Ogilvie, soon after which the British received a reinforcement from Fort George and Chippawa, amounting to about 1100 including Indians. The Indians were soon repulsed and driven to the woods.

The attack of the Indians and their war whoops had such an effect upon the militia that when the troops had formed a line in three divisions and were counted off only 240 men, 110 of whom were militia, remained. Previous to this, however, a column of British regulars advanced, commanded by General Brock. The British General's horse was killed by a private of the name of Wilklow, who was enlisted in Orange County, shortly after which the General himself fell, within pistol shot of the American troops. The superiority in numbers of the British troops and their Indian allies induced the American officers to hold a consultation, at which they were disposed to dispute the ground they held, but a note was received from General Van Rensselaer informing them he could furnish them no assistance, and that he would cover their retreat at the battery at Fort Grey and furnish boats to cross the river, and, finding by Colonel Stranahan that the militia would no longer

act, a retreat was resolved upon. They retreated in good order without the loss of a man, but to their extreme mortification not a boat was there to receive them nor did any arrive. After remaining in this extremely painful situation about a quarter of an hour, this little band surrendered to about five times their number.

The enemy consisted of a part of the 49th Regiment. . .

. . . . . .

They treated their prisoners with tenderness and respect and allowed them as much merit as brave men could desire. The number of American troops killed amounted to not more than sixty, and about 100 were wounded. The number of prisoners, including the wounded, amounted to about 700.

But the victorious enemy, though generous and tender to those who by the fortune of war had fallen into their power, imposed no restraint upon their Indian allies from stripping and scalping the dying and slain that remained on the field of battle. Capt. Ogilvie himself saw the lifeless body of Ensign Morris stripped even of his shirt, and the skull of one that had been wounded was seen cloven by a tomahawk.

(File in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)

(**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 20th October, 1812.**)

MEADVILLE, October 7.

General Tannehill and staff arrived here yesterday. Arrangements, we understand, are making to march the troops to Niagara as soon as possible.

BATTLES OF QUEENSTON.

On Tuesday morning last, just before daylight, in conformity to previous arrangements, Colonel Sol. Van Rensselaer, aide-de-camp to General Van Rensselaer, at the head of 300 volunteer militia from the 18th Regiment, and Colonel Christie with 300 regular troops, the whole under the command of Colonel Van Rensselaer, crossed the river at Lewiston in seventeen boats with the intention to storm the enemy's works on the heights or mountain above Queenston. The militia and regulars moved forward with the greatest intrepidity and gallantry and carried the enemy's works with but a small loss, and possessed themselves of the enemy's battery. In this affair Colonel Van Rensselaer was severely wounded in the leg, thigh and side, and was carried back to the American side of the river. General Brock and his aid, Colonel McDonnel, of the British forces, were killed in this engagement.

General Wadsworth then crossed over with the residue of his brigade, consisting of detachments from Colonels Allen's, Bloom's,

Stranahan's and Mead's regiments, also Colonel Fenwick with the light artillery, amounting in all to about 700 men. The command was transferred to General Wadsworth, who commanded in the subsequent operations of the day. After a line had been formed on the heights our troops were attacked in rear by the Indians and militia in the direction of Chippawa, who were repulsed and driven back with great slaughter, and our men remained a second time in quiet possession of the field. At this period General Van Rensselaer ordered over Colonel Scott of the artillery and Lieut. Totten of the Engineers to lay out the plan of a fortified camp, and immediately after the General, with Major Mullany, crossed the river. From the heights the General observed a strong reinforcement of the enemy from Fort George marching up under the command of General Sheaffe, who succeeded General Brock in command, amounting to about 6 or 700 men. As this force, in co-operation with the force of the enemy yet hanging on our flanks, would inevitably overpower our brave troops, now fatigued with several hours hard fighting, the General was persuaded to recross the river in the hope of inducing the militia to cross to the relief of our brave countrymen, not a man of whom could be prevailed to cross over. The British militia and Indians, being reinforced by the troops from Fort George, made a vigorous attack, and, although opposed by fresh troops superior in discipline and numbers, yet our men maintained the unequal conflict with a determination bordering upon desperation for a considerable time, when, all hope of relief being cut off, they capitulated to a superior force and were conducted prisoners of war to Fort George. Our loss in prisoners and wounded was as follows:

Wounded, of the regulars, 62, two since dead, 6 dangerous: of the militia 20, 9 dangerous.

Prisoners—Regulars 386, militia 378, besides officers, numbers not estimated.

Of the killed there are no returns, and opinions are so various on this point that it is extremely difficult to fix on any probable number. Our loss in killed probably exceeds 100, and that of the enemy much the same number.

Our troops achieved all that bravery could accomplish. The misfortunes of the day are to be ascribed to causes as yet undeveloped. To express an opinion on this point would be highly improper, as an official report of the battle may be shortly expected.

The militia prisoners, we understand, have all been discharged on parole, not to serve during the war. We cannot learn that any of the officers were killed above the rank of captain, and but few were wounded.

There was a brisk exchange of cannon shot during the whole day at the different fortifications along the river. The jail and a brewery at Newark were fired by hot shot from Fort Niagara and consumed.

The corpses of General Brock and Colonel Macdonnell were conveyed to Newark and interred near the fort with martial honors. General Brock was 53 years of age, a real gentleman, and one of the best generals in the British provinces.

We understand that some of our troops in recrossing the river brought over eight or ten prisoners, among whom was an Indian chief.

WAR EVENTS AT BLACK ROCK.

On Monday last week the British came over to Squaw Island and captured two American boats, one of which was loaded with cannon balls.

On the same day, while a boat was passing down the river from Black Rock to Schlosser, loaded with flour and whiskey, the British opened their batteries and fired upwards of thirty rounds of grape shot at her while passing from Squaw Island to the head of Grand Island, most of which struck the sails or some part of the boat. There were about thirty men on board the boat and only one of them was wounded. The only thing that saved the men from being either killed or wounded was this: whenever they descried the smoke of the cannon they resorted to the fashionable mode of *prostrating* themselves in the boat. The wounded man, Thomas Morgan, lying with his elbow above the railing, received a grape shot in the elbow which came out at the shoulder. The limb being much shattered, an amputation took place next morning. He survived the wound about thirty hours. He was from the County of Cayuga —was a non-commissioned officer of much merit.

On Tuesday morning last the British batteries below Fort Erie opened a very heavy fire on the fortifications and village of Black Rock, which continued with intervals spiritedly all day. But few shots were returned from our batteries, having there no larger calibre than field sixes at the breastwork. Two shot in the morning pierced the house of Orange Dean, which did little damage besides bilging a barrel of old Pittsburg whiskey in Dean's cellar belonging to P. H. Colt. Several cannon shot struck the batteries and two or three passed through the upper loft of the west barracks. A bomb thrown from a 24-pounder struck the east barracks and destroyed them. A quantity of skins, a part of the cargo of the *Caledonia*, was much injured. This event caused much shouting among the British. Several shot passed through Sill's store. A 24-pounder

struck the upper loft of the stone house of General Porter while the General and his friends were at dinner, and passed through one of the chimneys and injured the ornamental work near the eave. Another ball passed through the roof of the house. Several other houses were injured. In the course of the day a marine, a black man, was killed by a 24-pound shot.

The cargo of the *Caledonia*, which has been estimated at the eastward at 150,000 dollars, is not now rated higher than eight or ten thousand dollars. The immense packs of beaver, muskrat, &c., with which it was said that the *Caledonia* was laden, prove to be nothing more than *deer*, *bear* and *buffalo* skins. This property, we understand, is now liable to seizure by officers of the customs in consequence of not having been reported to that department. At any rate, it must be libelled and sold by the marshal of the district of the State of New York before any distribution of the prize can be made.

Captain Thomas Davis of this village commanded one of the boats which captured the *Adams* and *Caledonia*. George P. Valentine of the United States army, one of the number who boarded the vessels, died in this village on Thursday last of the wounds he received in that encounter. He stated that he had connections living near Pittsburg.

On Friday last an express arrived from Lewiston bringing the account of an armistice concluded at Lewiston on Tuesday last, which expired on Monday evening at 4 p. m. This armistice, we understand, was requested by the British in order to bury the troops killed on the 13th.

On Saturday a flag came over from Fort Erie informing our General that they should consider an attempt to remove the guns which remained in the hold of the *Adams*, which was burned last week near Squaw Island, as an infringement of the armistice, and would fire on our troops should they come near the hulk. An answer, we understand, was returned stating that considering the property our own no attention would be paid to their request. The flag returned, and the moment it landed they fired two guns of grape at our troops on board the hulk, which, however, did no damage. In the course of the night Captain C. Chapin went on board with a party of soldiers and marines and took out an elegant long twelve-pounder from the ruins of the ship, which, together with an 18-pounder lately brought up from Lewiston, are mounted on our batteries.

On Sunday evening Lieut. Watts went on board with a number of men and brought away another long twelve.

On Friday last arrived off Buffalo Creek the schooner *Ellen*, a cartel eleven days from Detroit. She was chartered by R. H. Jones and David Baird, Esq., for the purpose of conveying from Detroit their stock of mercantile goods, the books and papers of the army contractor, A. Porter, Esq., and a few other articles.

General Van Rensselaer arrived in this village on Sunday last from the encampment at Lewiston, in expectation of meeting the Governor, who was expected to have arrived here accompanied by Commodore Chauncey.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Return of Casualties.

Return of casualties in Captain Cameron's company of the 3rd Regiment of York Militia, during their service at Niagara from 8th September to the 20th December, 1812 :

Lieut. McLean, wounded on the 13th October at Queenston.

Sergeant Smallman, wounded in the hand at Queenston.

Thomas Smith, killed at Queenston.

Andrew Kennedy, lost his leg at Queenston.

Thomas Major, now in hospital, lost the calf of his leg, at Queenston.

John Tyrer, severely wounded in both legs at Queenston.

Francis Lee, received two severe wounds at Queenston.

Edward Thomson, slightly wounded in the breast at Queenston.

Simon Devine, died in hospital at Niagara.

Joseph Crawford, died in hospital at Niagara.

Johnson Yeomans, died on his return from Niagara.

York, 5th January, 1813.

D. Cameron,
Captain 3rd Regt. Y. M.

(Original in Toronto Public Library.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 2nd March, 1813.)

We are informed that General Armstrong intends joining the army of the Centre in order to promote the enterprise of the troops by his presence. His son, a youth of about 20 years of age, was in the affair at Queenston. He headed a company of 36 men, 14 of whom were killed and 16 wounded. He received four wounds, one with a musket ball and three with buckshot.

Baltimore Whig.

(From the Independent Chronicle, of Boston, October 29th, 1812.)

, Colonel Schuyler, in a letter to his brother in Albany, states the following loss of officers in his regiment (the 13th U. S. I.): Captain Nelson and Ensign Morris killed, Captains Lawrence, Armstrong and Wool, and Lieut. Lent wounded, not dangerously, Capt. Ogilvie, Lieuts. Fink and Kearney and Ensign Sammons prisoners.

(From file in the Lenox Library, New York.)

From the Aurora of Philadelphia, 29th October, 1812.

Extract of a letter from a young gentleman at Canandaigua to his father in New York, October 17th:

Called by some business with the officers on the lines, I arrived at Lewiston (the place from which our troops embarked) at the moment the attack began. Our men, to the number of five hundred, headed by Solomon Van Rensselaer, in thirteen boats, crossed over to the Canadian side. They were fired upon by the British and Indians, who were undoubtedly aware of our intentions. As soon as they arrived within gunshot the cry was, "Pull away, boys!" and in a few moments our boats struck the shore. Here the battle began on our side, and a dreadful conflict ensued. We beat them up a very high mountain, at the foot of which our men landed at the point of the bayonet. Having possession of the Heights and planting our flag on the redoubt built on the hill, an ecstacy of joy seemed to pervade our ranks, and all hands were anxious to cross and did as fast as the small number of boats would allow. About eight hundred had crossed as a reinforcement when the British, who had rallied, returned to the attack.

The commencement of the second battle, and a considerable number of dead and mangled bodies which were brought to our shore in the return boats, caused a depression of mind on this side which could not be effaced. Though our troops were again completely victorious (under General Wadsworth, who had taken the command,) none could be got to cross, and many were constantly deserting. General Wadsworth came upon the brow of the hill and urged our men (we could talk across the river) to turn out and support what had been so gloriously won. But the sight of another reinforcement of red coats, who had marched directly within our view, decided their fears. The panic became universal, and the loss of our brave fellows clearly foreseen.

The third and last battle was one of the most desperate and severe that ever occurred. Our men, though outflanked and almost surrounded, fought in the most resolute manner for about an hour

and a half. They were driven to the edge of the hill which was nearest the water, and compelled (as we suppose) to surrender at discretion.

Our loss, as near as I can judge, must have been about twelve hundred in killed, wounded and taken prisoners. Among the number was G. H. Boughton, who was an ensign in an independent company that was called into service. All the militia was to be paroled and sent home, and could not learn that any officer of distinction was killed, though many were wounded, among whom were Lieut.-Colonel Christie of New York, Major Spencer of this county an aid to General Wadsworth, Colonel Bloom &c., &c. General Wadsworth had a ball pass through his coat. From the peculiar situation of the ground those on this side had a fair view of the principal part of the whole transaction without being in material danger.—*Mercantile Advocate.*

(File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, 24th November, 1812.)

MONTREAL, November 3rd, 1812.

Arrived here on Saturday last about 400 American prisoners taken at the battle of Queenston; among them were eight officers—the highest in rank a Colonel. Yesterday they embarked on board four of the river craft, escorted by a detachment of 100 men of the 5th Battalion of Embodied Militia, under the command of Major Guy [Gugy ?].

We have received an Upper Canada Gazette of the 24th ulto., from which we have extracted the following relating to the battle of Queenston:

It is now ascertained that the number of prisoners taken at Queenston in the affair was 926, including about 60 officers, and that about 500 were killed or drowned. A gentleman, an eye-witness, relates that one boat, containing about fifty men, was sunk by our artillery, and that two others, containing about the same number, did not bring a dozen men on shore alive. One hundred and twenty of their wounded were carried to Niagara, part of which were lodged in the church, the hospitals not being sufficient to accommodate them, and the greatest attention was paid to them by the surgeons. Thirty of these died of their wounds. Such as could be removed were allowed to be taken to the American camp or garrison. Our loss in killed and wounded did not exceed 90. Our militia behaved most gallantly, and had their full share of the dangers and horrors of the day. One of the conditions on which the prisoners were ad-

mitted to a surrender was that they should destroy all their boats between Niagara and Queenston, which was immediately executed.

The prisoners, on their part, surrendered at discretion, but those among them who were militia were permitted to return home, under a promise they would not take up arms during the war, an indulgence they did not deserve, as it appears during the time they had possession of Queenston they plundered the houses of everything they could conveniently carry away. Indeed, it appears they were allured over by the hopes of plunder. The houses and farms for each of them were pointed out to them, and a paper was actually given to one assuring him of the Government House for a tavern. A specimen of what we have to expect should we allow them to get possession here.

It was their intention to burn the town of Niagara, as they fired red-hot shot into it and actually burnt the court house and a tavern.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

Garrison Orders.

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 15, 1813.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that the commanding officer gives to Captain McKeon his full approbation for his spirited and judicious conduct during the severe cannonade from Fort George and the batteries on the opposite side of the river against this post for seven hours on the 13th inst. To Dr. West he begs to express his sincere thanks for the aid and assistance received from him. To the non-commissioned officers and privates of the garrison, they have his full approbation for their cool and determined courage and their zeal and activity during the day.

N. LEONARD,
Capt. Commanding Fort Niagara.

(From the Aurora of Philadelphia, 4th November, 1812. File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)

From the Aurora of Philadelphia, 4th November, 1812.

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 16th, 1812.

On the 13th day of October inst. we were ordered to be ready for action at five o'clock in the morning. At half-past five three cannon were discharged from the batteries on the opposite side of the river at us, when we immediately commenced the fire from our fort. The detachment from Captain McKeon's company, to which

we belonged, stationed at the south block house, commenced the fire with red-hot shot directed against the village of Newark, opposite the fort, and on the third or fourth shot we discovered that the court house was on fire. Soon after, we discovered the brewery and tan house on the bank of the river to be on fire, which buildings were all consumed. Several other buildings were set on fire but extinguished by the enemy. The magazine at Fort George was set on fire, but extinguished by their engine. The fire continued without intermission on either side for more than seven hours. Our commander, Captain McKeon, who commanded in the south block house, of whose bravery, skill and good conduct in the action too much cannot be said, continued the fire with great effect considering the size of the piece being only a six-pounder, until our defence was shivered almost into splinters, and would have continued it longer but the enemy commenced the fire with bombshells upon the fort, and having lost two men of Captain Leonard's company by the bursting of a 12-pounder placed in the north block house, and being left only with a six-pounder, induced the commanding officer, Capt. Leonard, to order a retreat rather than expose a handful of men to the danger of shells, against which we had no defence. Several red-hot shot were discharged from our single six-pounder at the south block house, and to our great satisfaction no man was materially hurt. The retreat was ordered by the commanding officer to the woods in rear of the fort, but hearing that the enemy were preparing boats for the purpose of crossing, Captain McKeon with a guard of twenty men returned to the fort and tarried during the night, when he was joined by the rest of the detachment the next morning.

. . . . . .

We have to regret with tender emotion the loss of 25 men of our company, detached to Lewiston on the night of the 12th inst., who were killed, wounded and made prisoners.—*New York Columbian.*

(File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 16th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have heard with great regret that Colonel Van Rensselaer is badly wounded. If there be anything at my command that your side of the river cannot furnish, which would be either useful or agreeable to him, I beg that you will be so good as to have me apprised of it.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix p. 77.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 16th October, 1812.

SIR,—As the period assigned to the cessation of hostilities is drawing to a termination, and the intended exchange of prisoners and sending over the wounded and the militia will require much more time than remains of it, and as, moreover, part of this day is to be devoted to paying the last offices of humanity to the remains of my departed friend and General. I feel it to be my duty to propose a prolongation of the armistice to such period as may be necessary for the complete execution of those humane purposes. Lists are prepared for all the prisoners here, distinguishing those of the line from militia, and Brigade-Major Evans, who has been appointed by me to arrange the business with Captain Dox, will be ready to proceed in it as soon as that officer comes over.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix p. 77.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Sheaffe.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 16th, 1812.

SIR,—I have this moment had the honor to receive your two letters of the present date. I most cheerfully agree to extend the cessation of hostilities for a time amply sufficient to discharge all duties of humanity to the brave who are wounded or prisoners, and the just tribute of respect to the gallant dead. For these purposes I agree to the further cessation of hostilities until four o'clock of the afternoon of the 19th instant.

I shall order a salute for the funeral of General Brock to be fired here and at Fort Niagara this afternoon.

You will please to accept, Sir, the grateful acknowledgments of Colonel Van Rensselaer and myself for your kind offer of anything in your power which might contribute to his comfort. I do not know that he is at present destitute of anything essential.

As this, Sir, is probably the last communication I shall have the honor to make to you from this station, I avail myself of the opportunity to tender you the assurance of my great esteem and consideration.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix p. 77.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT GEORGE, 16th October, 1812.

SIR,—I feel too strongly the generous tribute which you propose to pay to my departed friend and chief to be able to express

the sense I entertain of it. Noble minded as he was, so would he have done himself.

I have directed the prolongation of the armistice until four o'clock in the afternoon of the 19th instant, to be communicated along this line.

I feel a perfect confidence, Sir, that nothing will be omitted on your part to ensure a strict execution of the agreement respecting the militia officers and men, as well as any others not yet exchanged, who are released from their captivity.

Allow me, Sir, to express a hope that the time is not far distant when the restoration of peace and amity between our respective countries may afford me an opportunity of assuring you personally of the respect and esteem with which I have the honor to be, &c.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 78.)

Captain M. Leonard to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 16th, 1812,
4 o'clock P. M.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge (illegible) of this instant. The salute in honor of General Brock will be fired at sunset. I delivered your letter to Colonel Winder.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 270.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 16th Oct., 1812.

D. G. O.

The procession for the funeral of the late Major-General Brock and Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell will be arranged in the following order, and will leave the Government House for the place of interment at 10 o'clock this day:

Fort-Major Campbell.
60 men of the 41st, with one subaltern.
60 men from the militia, with one captain.
Two six-pounders.
Corps and detachments of the garrison.
Band, 41st Regiment.
General's horse, caparisoned, led by his groom.
Servants of the General.
Surgeon Moor, Doctor Kerr.
Staff Surgeon Thom.
Chaplain.

Captain Cameron,
Lieut. Robinson,
Joseph Edwards, Esq.

Body of Lieut.-Col. Macdonell.

Lieut. Jarvis,
Lieut. Ridout,
Captain Crooks.

Chief Mourners.
Alexander Macdonell, Esq.
Mr. Dickson, Captain Cameron.

Col. Claus, Militia,
Major Merritt, Dragoons,
Capt. Dennis, 49th Regt.
Capt. Vigoreaux, R. E.
Brigade-Major Evans.

Body of Major-General Brock.

Col. Butler, Militia.
Capt. Derenzy, 41st Regt.
Capt. Holcroft, R. Artillery.
Capt. Powell, Militia Artillery.
Capt. Glegg, A. D. C.

Chief Mourners.
Major-General Sheaffe, Lieut.-Colonel Myers.
Ensign Coffin, A. D. C., Lieut. Fowler, 41st Regt.
Civil Staff.
Friends of the deceased.
Inhabitants.

The officers will wear crape on the left arm and on their sword knots, and all officers throughout the Province will wear crape on their left arm for the space of one month.

Captain Holcroft will be pleased to direct that minute guns will be fired from the period of the body leaving the Government House until its arrival at the place of interment, and also after the funeral service shall have been performed, three rounds of seven guns from the artillery.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
October 16th, 1812.

A prolongation of the cessation of hostilities having been agreed upon between Major-General Sheaffe and Major-General Van Rensselaer for an undefined period, the officers commanding posts along the line and all others concerned will strictly govern themselves accordingly until further orders.

Captain Glegg, 49th Regt., aid-de-camp to the late Major-General Brock, will be pleased to act in that capacity with Major-General Sheaffe until further orders.

Lieutenant Walter Kerr of the Glengarry Light Infantry (when his duty as assistant engineer will permit) will attach himself to Lieut.-Colonel Myers and receive his directions.

Militia Orders.

NIAGARA, 16th October, 1812.

Captain John Jones will proceed to Queenston and take command of Captain John Servos's company until further orders, Capt. Servos being very ill. Capt. Jones will, on his arrival, report himself to Capt. Hatt, commanding the militia.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 16th Oct., 1812.

D. G. O.

Two-thirds of the whole establishment of the 1st and 2nd Norfolk, 1st Oxford and 1st Middlesex Regiments of militia, officered agreeably to former regulations, are to repair with the greatest possible despatch to the following points:

1st Norfolk, 2nd do. } Chippawa.
1st Oxford, 1st Middlesex } Queenston.

A blanket each is recommended to be brought by each man, and all arms and ammunition in their possession are also to be brought.

To Colonel Talbot or officer commanding.

R. H. SHEAFFE,
Major-General commanding.

(Memo.)

Colonel Bostwick will direct that the men required by the foregoing order shall be marched in by their officers, without losing the time that it would require to wait for orders from Colonel Talbot.

R. H. SHEAFFE,
M. General Commanding.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Garrison Orders.

YORK, 16th Oct., 1812.

1st. The troops embarked on board the *Earl of Moira* will disembark at daybreak this morning.

2nd. The *Duke of Gloucester* will, as soon as possible, be put into a condition to receive prisoners of war. Lieut. Gouvereau will move her into a proper situation between the Garrison and Mr. Crookshank's house.

3rd. Immediately on the *Gloucester* being prepared for this service such a number of the prisoners of war as she can contain will be put on board her. The remainder will be provided for in the gaol if necessary.

From Colonel Edward Baynes to Captain Macdonell, Canadian Voyageurs.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
MONTREAL, Oct. 16, 1812.

SIR,—I am commanded to inform you that the practical objects which His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has in view in stationing the company of *voyageurs* under your command in the village of St. Regis are for the security of that post, which affords an easy inlet into the Province, to guard against any predatory incursion on the part of the enemy, to inspire confidence in the Indians of that place and to ensure their good conduct and fidelity.

Under the existing circumstances of the present state of the war it is not desirable to act offensively nor to provoke active hostility on the part of the enemy. It is, nevertheless, of the highest importance to preserve the utmost vigilance and to be at a moment prepared to meet and repel any insult on the part of the enemy.

The peculiar situation of Monsieur de Montigny, captain and resident agent at the village, renders it essentially necessary to the advantageous discharge of his important duties that he should receive every support and countenance from you in order to insure the respect and prompt obedience of the Indians under his superintendence. His local information, both with respect to the country and its inhabitants, is recommended to your serious attention.

Agents and spies on the part of the American Government have for some time past been clandestinely intriguing with the Indians of St. Regis to seduce them from their allegiance and their artifice has not been without effect. If you can by stratagem, within the Province line, arrest the persons of any of these American agents or others endeavoring to mislead the Indians, you are directed to send them immediately, under a sufficient escort, to Montreal.

(From The War, New York, 14th November, 1812. File in Buffalo Historical Society's Library.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 17th Oct., 1812.

The service indispensably requiring that Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery should be assisted in the various duties of his department, Lieut. King of the corps will be pleased to act for the present under his directions.

No. 2. A board of survey to assemble at the 41st mess room at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning for the examination of, and to report upon, damaged clothing.

President—Captain Derenzy.

Mr. Bent and Mr. Price, storekeepers, members.

No. 3. The flank companies of the Newfoundland Regiment will march from Chippawa at daylight to-morrow morning by the back road for Fort George. Captain Bullock will be pleased to furnish a guide for the purpose of shewing them the road.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
Major of Brigade.

District General Order.

17th October, 1812.

A detachment of 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 2 sergeants and 20 rank and file will embark on board the *Earl of Moira* without delay to escort prisoners from here to Kingston, and a detachment of 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant and 10 rank and file will embark at the same time on the *Simcoe* for a similar service. Captain Howard and Lieuts. Merritt and Ridout are the officers to embark on board the *Moira*, and Lieut. Powers for the *Simcoe*, will be drawn from the militia stationed at this post.

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

(No. 12.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
17th October, 1812.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to inform Your Lordship that the forces comprising the cordon of defence against the approach of the enemy in this neighborhood have moved into their respective cantonments, in consequence of the inclemency of the season. The cantonments that I have selected for the troops do not remove them considerably from their original position. They are calculated to afford equal convenience for the rapid concentration of the force

placed under the immediate command of Major-General De Rottenburg, consisting of 2,500 regulars and 3,000 select embodied militia.

The last accounts I have obtained of the American army acting against this frontier state Major-General Dearborn to be at Greenbush, near Albany, with about 3,000 men, mostly recruits, and Brigadier-General Bloomfield at Plattsburg with 6,000, having in his front at Champlain town twelve or fifteen hundred men.

A force has moved towards Chateauguay and great exertions are making by the Americans in front of the line of communication between this and the Upper Province, from St. Regis to Sackett's Harbor, to interrupt our intercourse, in consequence of which several partial affairs have taken place in covering our brigades of batteaux proceeding from Montreal with supplies for Major-General Brock's army.

The latest intelligence from Detroit represents everything in its immediate vicinity as quiet, and reports Colonel Procter having detached a small force of regulars and militia to Fort Wayne, to save the American force therein invested by the Indians from their merciless hands. On the Niagara frontier both parties were acting on the defensive.

The Government of the United States having become sensible of the great advantage we have hitherto derived from our naval superiority on the lakes, are using uncommon exertions to obtain a force superior to ours both on Lake Ontario and on Lake Erie.

It is necessary I should dwell a few moments upon this circumstance to solicit the attention of His Majesty's Government to that important part of the defence of Upper Canada. Having already transmitted to Your Lordship's predecessor a list of the vessels in commission, I have now to state the difficulties which attend providing them with proper officers and suitable crews. For the present I have allotted the Newfoundland Fencibles for that service and the Quartermaster-General has picked up a scanty supply of sailors at Quebec.

But the officers are in general deficient in experience, and particularly in that energetic spirit which distinguishes British seamen. In consequence, it will be necessary, in the event of the continuance of the war with America, that tried officers of the rank of lieutenants and trusty men from the navy should be appropriated for that service and sent to me as early as possible next spring.

War was declared by the United States against Great Britain on the 18th of June. Offensive operations against this portion of His Majesty's dominions quickly followed, and found me struggling to overcome difficulties arising from a scarcity of specie and a lukewarmness in the disposition of the Canadians. However, I have

fortunately overcome these obstacles and have obtained from the inhabitants of both provinces a display of active loyalty that must decide their character for some years to come. But I have to lament the delay in the arrival of the clothing, arms and stores applied for to Your Lordship when I was under the influence of strong apprehensions from the decided disposition of the American Government to act with hostility against His Majesty's Provinces.

From the want of these essential supplies I have not been able to avail myself of the voluntary services of the King's old and new subjects to the extent it has now become expedient I should use them.

The introduction of Army Bills has had the best effect. They are forming a powerful link in that chain which binds the Canadas to Great Britain.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 273.)

General Smyth to General Sheaffe.

(Extract.)

October 18, 1812.

As I am averse to taking a single life or occasioning a single calamity without an object, I propose a further continuance of the armistice indefinitely, each party to have a right to terminate it, giving thirty hours' notice to the other party, the armistice to extend along the frontier from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

District General Orders.

18th October, 1812.

The cessation of hostilities expiring at 4 o'clock to-morrow the officers and soldiers generally, along the line of communication, will use the utmost vigilance in discovering the points of attack in order to the effectual repulsion of every hostile attempt of the enemy.

No. 2. A court to be assembled at Kingston to enquire into the conduct of Major Heathcote, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, when in command of an escort of batteaux with stores at the time of an attack by the enemy, on or about the 16th September last, below Prescott.

Colonel Vincent—President.

Colonel Vincent will be pleased to appoint the earliest convenient day, after the receipt of this order, for assembling the court of enquiry, the result of whose proceedings will be transmitted without delay to the Major-General commanding.

No 3. The two companies of the 41st, under Capt. Chambers,

will march for Queenston this evening without delay, after the men have dined ; the detachment of the 49th Regiment will march from Queenston after arrival of the 41st Regiment to Fort George.

Militia Order.

FORT GEORGE, 18th October, 1812.

Captain Selby's company of the 1st York Militia will remove this afternoon from this post to Gilbert Field's house on Niagara River, until further orders.

Captain J. B. Glegg to Colonel Talbot.

FORT GEORGE, 19th October, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you on the 14th and giving verbal instructions to Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick respecting the movements to be made by the different regiments of militia under your command, some circumstances have arisen which induce Major-General Sheaffe to make some changes in the former arrangements. The enemy having been foiled in his late attempt on this line, and an indefinite armistice having been agreed upon by Major-General Sheaffe and Brigadier-General Smyth, which extends only between the Lakes Erie and Ontario, or, in other words, the extremities of our mutual posts along this communication, it is not at all improbable that he may make some efforts to effect a landing, either above or below Fort Erie and Fort George.

Major-General Sheaffe requests you will distribute the proportion of militia directed to be immediately called out, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Norfolk, 1st Oxford and 1st Middlesex Regiments, between Long Point and Point Abino, making such intermediate arrangements for other points along that communication as your superior local knowledge may suggest.

Major-General Sheaffe begs that you will station strong detachments at the following places : At or very near Long Point, Dover Mills, Grand River, Sugar Loaf and a small party distributed from the latter place to Fort Erie. You will be pleased to make an early communication of your aggregate *effective* force and your distribution of it. You will be so good at the same time as to transmit a statement of your wants and means of supplying them. Every effort will be made to give the most immediate efficiency to the force under your command, and the Major-General recommends the establishment of your headquarters at the most convenient point for a quick communication with this post.

P. S.—Arrangements have been made this morning for facilitating your communication, by placing a proper proportion of dragoons between this post and Long Point.

[P. P. S.]—I have not a moment to devote to you on the subject of our late glorious tho' melancholy proceedings. I will not forget, my dear Sir, the interest you have ever taken in everything relative to our late lamented friend. At a moment of more leisure you shall hear from me on this subject.

J. B. G.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
19th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have been honored with your letters, dated the 9th and 11th October, together with their several enclosures. Two companies of the Glengarry levy are to leave Lachine on Wednesday for Cornwall and Prescott, taking with them two light gun boats, some hundred stand of arms with a proportion of ammunition. Having *had repeatedly* cause to mistrust *the judgment in command of Colonel Lethbridge* he has been relieved by Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, whose zeal and talents as a soldier I have frequently witnessed.

In the present state of affairs there exists a much greater desire than ability in the United States for the recovery of the Michigan Territory.

The precedent for an increase of pay, to which Colonel Procter alludes in his letter to you of the 1st of October, does not apply to his situation at Detroit, which cannot be considered as coming within the provision of the Secretary at War's letter of the 10th of January, as it confines the allowance of 10 and 20 shillings per diem to cases of regimental officers without regular staff appointments succeeding to the command of His Majesty's troops abroad by the death or absence of the commanding officer.

Colonel Vincent received the allowance whilst holding the command allotted to Major-General Welder, absent, and as you have already in Upper Canada one general officer more than has been considered necessary by His Majesty's Government for that Province, I can only augment the command money allowed to Colonel Procter upon a representation from you of the increase of duty and expense brought upon him by the administration of the Michigan Territory, you recommending at the same time an adequate remuneration.

I must regret the loss of H. M. brig *Detroit* and the private brig *Caledonia*. I am induced to think from your statement of the circumstances that had proper precaution been adopted and due vigilance observed, so disgraceful an event could not have occurred.

Aware of the desire of the enemy to obtain a naval superiority on both lakes, I have not failed to represent to His Majesty's ministers the absolute necessity of enabling me to maintain the ascendency we now possess by sending experienced officers and able seamen for the marine service in Upper Canada. You will, of course, take measures to preserve the superiority you possess on those waters, and authorize the execution of such services as you deem essential, without further reference.

I have not prescribed limits to your marine operations, when calculated upon the great object of preserving a naval superiority on the lakes, nor have I been disposed to encourage them, from the want of energy evinced upon trial by the commanders of the vessels on Lake Ontario.

In the present state of the war, I still would have you refrain from unnecessary hostility, calculated to weaken our force, to widen the breach existing between the two countries, and unproductive of real advantage.

I will endeavor to reinforce the artillery under your command before our communication closes.

I have not the least apprehension but that you may be able to repel any simultaneous attack which the enemy may make on Detroit and Fort George.

Memo. for the Adjutant-General, to 2nd Captain and 15 gunners.
(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 323.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 19th October, 1812.

No. 1. The enemy having proposed a further continuance of the cessation of hostilities for an undefined period, the Major-General commanding has been pleased to accede to it, and it is agreed that either party shall have a right to terminate it, giving thirty hours' previous notice to the other party of his intention.

No. 2. The Major-General holds the officers in command of divisions, &c., responsible that every individual acting under their orders may be immediately acquainted with this arrangement, that no ignorance may be pleaded for a departure therefrom.

The Major-General expects and exacts from the different officers holding situations of responsibility, the most prompt attention on their part to giving the utmost possible instruction and effect to the militia generally, but more especially to that proportion recently embodied, as best calculated to insure our real strength and increase our security against any sudden effort of the enemy.

No. 3. The barrack-master will make the necessary distribution of the officers' quarters at his disposal, the choice of quarters according to seniority and the subalterns to double up, agreeably to the order of the 27th August.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS.

General Smyth to the Secretary of War.

NEAR BUFFALO, October 20, 1812.

SIR,—On the 16th instant General Van Rensselaer by a general order invested me with the command of the troops between the Lakes Erie and Ontario, with power to order general courts martial and exercise the authority of commander of a great military district.

On the 18th instant, I ordered Colonel Winder, (an admirable officer,) to Fort Niagara; on the 19th I broke up the camp at Lewiston, ordered the militia, such as had not deserted, and excepting the artillery, to Schlosser: the artillery were put under Colonel Winder's command, and would most of them take post on the mountain opposite Queenston. Colonel Parker, with the detachments of the 12th and 20th, will take post on a small creek near Black Rock and collect the boats. Colonel Schuyler, with the detachments of the 5th and 13th, will take a position near him. The volunteers will encamp near Buffalo.

In the small creek I mention, I wish to have one hundred boats that will carry across at once four thousand men, and twenty or thirty scows or flats to take over artillery or cavalry; and if you will increase my force to eight thousand men, with twenty pieces of light or field artillery and some troops of cavalry, I will enter Canada and leave the rest to Heaven.

Place no confidence in detached militia. They have disgraced the nation. Do not rely on the contractor for provisions. He has no salt meat and only damaged flour. If you have any compassion on the service send money either to Lieutenant Allison, my brigade-quartermaster, or to some public agent, under my orders. Without it we cannot supply the contractors' deficiencies; we cannot get transportation by land, build boats, procure forage or anything else

wanted by the army. Give me here *a clear stage*, men and *money*, and I will retrieve your affairs or perish.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 20th October, 1812.

The Major-General having observed with regret the disorderly and intoxicated state of many soldiers of the line during the five last days, he is under the necessity of ordering that with the exception of servants no soldier shall, until further orders, be permitted to leave his quarters without permission first obtained from the officer commanding the company to which he belongs. This precaution will not be considered a hardship by the good soldier, who prides himself equally on his correct deportment in quarters as on his bravery before the enemy.

No. 2. The soldiers of the army are informed that so long as the enemy may think proper to threaten the safety of the frontier, the Major-General has thought proper to forbid persons on the line of defence between Niagara and Fort Erie from selling spirituous liquors except by license and under such restrictions as may be thought conducive to the good of His Majesty's service. All soldiers, therefore, attempting to obtain by threats or violence from any person whatever, spirits, contrary to this established mode, will assuredly be punished with the utmost severity.

No. 3. The attention of officers generally is called to the order of the 15th instant, establishing Lieut.-Colonel Myers in the command of the line from Fort George to Chippawa. The officers of the Grand Rounds have been particularly remiss in continuing to address their reports to the Major-General commanding, after the publication of an express order directing all reports and communications to be made to Lieut.-Colonel Myers.

No. 4. A piquet guard of militia, consisting of one subaltern, one sergeant and 12 privates to parade every evening at house. The duty of this piquet will be to patrol from the light house to the centre carronade battery beyond the batteaux creek and to watch the beach. The piquet guard at the White House will confine its patrols to the space between the light house and the detached guard south of the garrison. Major Merritt will order a night-patrol of two dragoons, the one to visit the extreme battery at 4-mile point, the other diverging off to his left, carefully examining the Black Swamp roads.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

B. M.

Major-General R. H. Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.

UPPER CANADA, YORK,
20th Oct., 1812.

(No. 1.)

MY LORD,—In consequence of the death of Major-General Brock, late President administering the government of this Province, who gloriously fell in an action with the enemy at Queenston on the 13th instant, I have the honor of announcing to Your Lordship that, conformably with the additional instructions of the thirteenth of July, eighteen hundred and eleven, I have repaired to this place to meet the Honorable the Executive Council, before which I have this day taken the oaths prescribed as a member thereof, and as President to administer the civil government of this Province.

I do myself the honor of transmitting herewith an extract from my despatch of the thirteenth instant to His Excellency Sir George Prevost, for the further information of Your Lordship on the subject of the public loss which it has become my duty to communicate to you.

Since the command of the troops in this Province has devolved on me no despatch has been received from Colonel Procter, commanding at Detroit. The last letter from that officer, dated early in this month, stated that he had intelligence of two considerable corps being on their march to form a junction and act against him, each consisting of from two to three thousand men, and I learn that another strong corps is in motion to support them.

The enemy has been reinforced on the Niagara frontier since the action of the thirteenth instant, and I am informed expect fresh succors. Notwithstanding the losses they have sustained they seem determined to repeat their attacks. By the aid of numbers and perseverance they may succeed in obtaining possession of at least a small portion of this province, unless respectable reinforcements speedily arrive, the season for transporting which by the St. Lawrence and the lakes is fast approaching to a termination. At present there is an armistice agreed on for an indefinite period from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, between Brigadier-General Smyth and myself, thirty hours notice to be given of its intended rupture. It was proposed by him and I acceded to it, both as corresponding with the system of forbearance, which policy and a spirit of conciliation had prescribed, and as permitting my coming to this place to revive the supreme civil authority, the prolonged suspension of which might have proved highly detrimental to the public service.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Provincial aide-de-camp to the late

President and Attorney-General of this Province, died on the 14th of the wounds he received in the action at Queenston. I shall appoint a person to act in that capacity until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 315, p. 205.)

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, 29th October, 1812.

MEADVILLE, PA., October 14.

The wretched quality of the State arms put into the hands of a number of the companies who have joined this detachment, the want of camp equipage, medical stores and a variety of other articles indispensably necessary for the comfort and safety of the troops has and still continues to delay their departure from this place. These articles must be got from a considerable distance. The utmost exertions are making by General Tannehill to remedy this deficiency as soon as possible. In the meantime, the most rigid attention is paid by the General to the order and discipline of the troops, by confining officers and men to the discharge of their respective duties.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Dearborn.

BUFFALO, 20th October, 1812.

SIR,—My extreme mortification at surrendering a victory which had been gallantly won and which I had ample force to have retained, and my disgust at the cause which changed triumph into defeat, has induced me to resign the immediate command of all the troops on the straights to General Smyth, subject to my order.

After the evidence furnished me, that the great body of the militia could not in the most trying imaginable crisis be prevailed upon to cross the river, it was very evident that my future services would avail nothing. I have therefore retired from Lewiston to this place, where I shall wait your orders, and have to request your permission that I may surrender my command and return home.

It is impossible for me to furnish you with a precise account of the loss in killed and wounded in the late action. The aggregate of my information would probably warrant the following statement as nearly correct: Killed 60, wounded 170, of the regulars 386 and of militia 378 are prisoners, as appears by Colonel Winder's statement. (He was the officer sent over.)

By a cartel which I have concluded with Major-General Sheaffe through Colonel Winder, the militia have been paroled and returned.

Since I left Lewiston General Smyth has agreed with Major-General Sheaffe to a cessation of hostilities until either party shall terminate it by thirty hours notice.

In my last I mentioned that General Brock was among the slain and his aide-de-camp mortally wounded. They were both interred in the same grave.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 240-1, New York State Library.)

Garrison Order.

York, 20th October, 1812.

In pursuance of orders received from Major-General Sheaffe, Captain Robinson's rifle company and Captain Burns's company will embark for Fort George by the first opportunity: the former will be augmented to 40 rank and file.

GENERAL DISTRICT ORDER.

Lieut.-Colonel Shortt will take immediate steps for transporting the American prisoners now under charge of the York Garrison on board the *Royal George*. Major Allan will be directed to proceed on board and go with them, as soon as the wind permits, to Kingston, where he will immediately report his arrival to Colonel Vincent. Major Allan will take the general direction of all the American prisoners now on board the King's vessels.

By order of Major-General Sheaffe.

J. B. Glegg,
A. D. C.

Lieut.-Colonel Shortt.

G. O.

The prisoners of war now on board the *Gloucester* will forthwith embark in the *Royal George*. Major Allan will proceed with them to Kingston, as soon as the wind permits, agreeable to the above order.

General Order.

Adjutant-General's Office,
Headquarters, Montreal,
20th October, 1812.

G. O.

Information having been this day received by an express from York in Upper Canada, of an action having taken place on the 13th instant between the British and American troops on the lines

between Niagara and Fort Erie, His Excellency the Commander of the Forces takes the earliest opportunity of communicating to the troops the total defeat of the enemy with the loss of nine hundred prisoners, of whom one hundred and fifty had arrived at York prior to the departure of the express by whom the intelligence has been received.

Successful as the result of this engagement has been, and in a high degree glorious to His Majesty's arms, it is with feelings of the deepest regret that His Excellency announces to the troops the loss of Major-General Brock, of whose distinguished zeal, talents and courage his country was deprived at daybreak on the 13th instant, shortly after the commencement of the engagement, to the victorious termination of which his able dispositions had contributed not less than the determination and bravery of the handful of troops under his command.

EDWARD BAYNES,
A. G. N. A.

(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 26th Oct., 1812.)

(From the Manlius Times, October 20, 1812.)

Extract of a letter from an officer on the frontier to his friend in this village, dated Camp at Lewiston, October 11, 1812:

Yesterday afternoon General Wadsworth sent up for volunteers to cross the river at this place, Lewiston, at 12 o'clock last night. Some companies volunteered without officers, of others officers without soldiers, and some neither officers nor soldiers. From Capt. Bristol's company about 20 volunteered, from Captain Kellogg's only one: the whole marched to the edge of the river at the hour appointed for the purpose of crossing. They remained on the bank of the river during a tedious rainy night, but no suitable preparation having been made they returned at the approach of day without having fired a gun.

Wednesday, October 14.

Yesterday morning at 3 o'clock the crisis arrived. Colonel Van Rensselaer with the volunteers crossed the river. At their landing a battle commenced, and there was one continued fire for two hours and a half, after which the firing ceased for a short time. Our men appeared successful and drove the British, but whilst they were taking some refreshments the British returned with reinforcements, when a dreadful conflict ensued. The battle lasted till four o'clock p. m., when our men laid down their arms and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Lieutenant S. M. Smith is among the

prisoners, and eight or ten privates—not a rifleman hurt except Levi Bishop, who had his arm shot off, but is doing well. Ensign Grosvenor returned from the battle with a ball hole or two through his hat.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

John Lovett to Abraham Van Vechten.

BUFFALO, 21st October, 1812.

DEAR SIR,— . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . The battle was by no means a matter of *choice*, but absolute *necessity*, with General Van Rensselaer. A flood of circumstances had convinced the General, as early as the beginning of this month, that a blow must be struck. He was therefore maturing a plan to close the campaign in the most honorable way he could. But the impetuosity of not only men but his first officers became such that he was absolutely compelled to go to battle or risk such consequences as no man could endure. . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 271.)

Lieutenant G. Ridout to his Brother at York.

BROWN'S POINT, 21st October, 1812.

As I have already given father a short account of the transaction of the 13th, I think it unnecessary to repeat, as you have, of course, been made acquainted with the contents of my letter of that date. Were it not for the death of General Brock and McDonell our victory would have been glorious and really a matter of triumph; but in losing our man, not only the President of the Province but our ablest General, is an irreparable loss under the existing circumstances, when his moderation and impartiality had united all parties in pronouncing him the only man worthy of being at the head of affairs. One field-piece, one stand of colors, one ammunition waggon, 1,200 stand of arms besides those seized by the Indians and militia, amounting to at least 400 more, together with 1,000 prisoners, were the fruits of that day's success.

As Congress meets in November no doubt Van Rensselaer, the American General, had been urged to make an attack by Madison so that the latter might make a favorable report of the game at Washington. General Smyth, the Democrat, has now the chief

command. He asserts that he is determined to conquer Canada even if he loses a hundred thousand men. Such gasconading is not to frighten, as it is well known that the American Government is not able to feed, clothe and equip so great a force. About an hour since two men marched down to Niagara under a guard. They crossed the river above Fort Erie—so they say. They state that the American force is about 12,000 : that the greater part of that army is stationed at Lewiston, a village opposite Queenston : that the Americans intend making these attacks at different places : that they are determined to have the command of the lakes, and for that purpose have nearly 400 men on the two lakes constructing gunboats and refitting merchant vessels. All this may be a trick of the Yankees to engage our attention to the fortifying of Queenston, while in reality they may be concerting measures for crossing at Chippawa or above that place. The latter, I think, is the case, as large bodies of the enemy have been seen moving up from Niagara in that direction.

I do not think the time is far distant when another attack is to be made. With another regiment I have no doubt that the country would be perfectly safe from all attempts they might make to subdue us.

General Brock and Macdonnell were buried on the 17th in one of the batteries of the garrison, called the York Battery, as our men were employed in constructing it. It was his desire to be buried in it, showing even to the last a preference for everything belonging to the name of York.

The burial was the grandest and most solemn I ever witnessed or that has been seen in Upper Canada. I was one of poor Macdonnell's pallbearers. The coffins were preceded first by a company of regulars, then a band of music, then the corpses, followed by another body of regulars and militia. The whole distance between the Government House and the Garrison where they were interred was lined by a double row of militia and Indians, resting on their arms reversed. Minute guns were fired during the whole procession. Mr. Addison read the service in a very impressive manner.

The American prisoners, officers and men, are the most savage looking fellows I ever saw. To strike a greater terror in their enemies they had allowed their beards on their upper lips to grow. This, however, had no other effect upon us than to raise sensations of disgust. I was over yesterday with a flag to the American garrison, and witnessed the destruction made by our cannon. Every building is completely riddled, but owing to the want of furnaces on our side we were unable to fire their garrison.

(From Lady Edgar's Ten Years of Upper Canada, pp. 158-160.)

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
21st October, 1812.

(No. 13.)

MY LORD,—I have the satisfaction of reporting to Your Lordship that His Majesty's forces, aided by the militia and Indians, stationed on the Niagara frontier, have completely repelled a second attempt of the enemy to invade Upper Canada, and that a victory has been gained which has left in our possession nine hundred of the American army and their commander, Brigadier-General Wadsworth, who surrendered himself on the field of battle to Major-General Sheaffe.

His Majesty and the country have to deplore the loss of an able and most active officer in Major-General Brock, who fell early in the battle at the head of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, whilst nobly encouraging them to sustain their position, in opposition to an infinitely superior force, until reinforcements he had ordered to advance to their support should arrive. For further particulars of this splendid affair I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to Major-General Sheaffe's report herewith transmitted.

I also transmit a general order I have just issued to the forces in the British American Provinces, on the occasion of this important success, as it contains a statement of the services rendered by all who had the good fortune to maintain on that day the fame of His Majesty's arms, and to convince our deluded neighbors that their superiority in numbers cannot intimidate His Majesty's army nor shake the fidelity of his Canadian subjects.

Not having received a return of the killed and wounded on the 13th, nor that of the ordnance and stores captured from the enemy, I am under the necessity of deferring sending them to Your Lordship until the next opportunity, when I also expect to forward the colors taken from the Americans to be laid at the feet of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Captain Fulton, my aide-de-camp, will have the honor of delivering this despatch to Your Lordship. He is very capable of affording such information as Your Lorship may require respecting the state of His Majesty's Canadian Provinces.

Eight companies of the Glengarry Levy are in motion to reinforce Upper Canada.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 278.)

General Order.

(Montreal Herald Office, Wednesday, Oct. 21st.)

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
21st October, 1812.

GENERAL ORDERS.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received an official report from Major-General Sheaffe of the brilliant victory achieved on the 13th instant by a portion of the troops under his command, over a division of the enemy's army which effected a landing at Queenston under cover of the night.

That post was nevertheless defended with undaunted gallantry by the two flank companies of the 49th Regiment, animated by the presence of their gallant and ever to be lamented chief, Major-General Brock, whose valuable life was on this occasion devoted to his country's service. These companies displayed exemplary discipline and spirit, although the captains of both were wounded, and succeeded in keeping the enemy in check until the arrival of Major-General Sheaffe with reinforcements.

The disposition of the forces and plan of the attack cannot receive a higher or more just praise than by stating that nine hundred prisoners of war, under the command of Brigadier-General Wadsworth, surrendered their arms to a force inferior in numbers and without sustaining any considerable loss on our part.

A six-pounder and a stand of colors have been taken from the enemy.

Major-General Sheaffe's report of the zeal and undaunted gallantry that animated every officer and soldier of his army, affords the Commander of the Forces the most heartfelt satisfaction and will be a most gratifying duty to His Excellency to bring before the notice of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster General, was stationed in charge of Fort Erie, and succeeded in completely silencing the fire of the enemy, drove a detachment from the encampment near Black Rock and destroyed a barrack in which was a considerable depot of ammunition. Its explosion must have killed many.

The *Caledonia*, lately captured by the enemy, was destroyed at her moorings.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers speaks highly of the discipline of the detachment of the 49th Regiment, and of the skill and spirit with which the guns were served, under Captain Kerby and Lieutenant Bryson of the militia.

Essential service was rendered by Brigade-Major Evans, left in charge of Fort George. A well directed fire from that work succeeded in silencing the enemy's batteries on the other side. Captain Vigoureux, Royal Engineers, Colonel Claus and Captains Powell and Cameron of the militia were zealous and indefatigable in their exertions, particularly in extinguishing fires which broke out in the court house and other places from red hot shot fired by the enemy.

Captains Dennis and Williams of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment have particularly distinguished themselves. The former officer retained command of his company to the end of the conflict, tho' suffering severely from his wound.

To Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery the highest praise is due for his successful and judicious co-operation. The well directed fire of the artillery, militia, as well as regular, is the best proof of the indefatigable zeal and talents of that officer.

Major Merritt, commanding the Niagara Dragoons, accompanied and rendered essential assistance with part of his corps. Capt. A. Hamilton, belonging to it, was disabled from riding and attached himself to the guns under Captain Holcroft, who speaks highly of his activity and usefulness.

Lieutenant Crowther, 41st Regiment, had charge of two field pieces, which were employed with good effect.

Captains Derenzy and Bullock are represented to have maintained the high reputation of the 41st Regiment in the detachment under their respective commands. Major-General Sheaffe reports having received essential service from Captain Glegg, aide-de-camp to Major-General Brock, Lieut. Fowler, 41st Regiment, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General and Lieut. Kerr of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, employed with a flanking party of Indians.

The eminent services and talents of Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell, Provincial Aide-de-camp and Attorney General of the Province, are recorded by the most honorable testimony of the gallant General whose steps he followed during his short but glorious career nor quitted him in death.

Volunteers Shaw, Thompson and Jarvis, attached to the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, conducted themselves with great spirit; the first was wounded and the last taken prisoner.

The Major-General particularly mentions the services of Lieut.-Colonels Butler and Clark of the militia and Captains Hatt, Durand, Rowe, Applegarth, James Crooks, Cooper, Robert Hamilton, McEwen and Duncan Cameron, and Lieuts. Richardson and Thomas

Butler, commanding flank companies of the Lincoln and York Militia, who led their men into action with great spirit.

The Major-General reports the conduct of the Indians employed on this occasion as meriting the highest praise for their good order and spirit, and particularly names the Chief Norton, who was wounded.

Several gentlemen volunteered their services in the field and shared in the honor of the day. Mr. Clench and Mr. Willcox were of the number, and the Major-General witnessed the zealous conduct of many others not named in his report.

Major-General Sheaffe had humanely consented to a cessation of offensive hostility on the solicitation of Major-General Van Rensselaer, for the purpose of allowing the Americans to remove the bodies of their slain and wounded.

G. O.

Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe is appointed to the command of the troops in the Upper Province and to administer the Government of the same.

EDWARD BAYNES,
Adjutant General.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 288.)

General Dearborn to General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Oct. 21, 1812.

SIR,—Major-General Van Rensselaer having communicated a wish to retire from his command, I have acquiesced in his request and have desired him to give over the command which he held to you, and to give you copies of my last two or three letters to him and such information in relation to the enemy, his means of obtaining information, and the state of the troops, stores, &c., as he may possess. The unfortunate affair at Queenston on the 13th is most seriously to be lamented, but we must endeavor by redoubled efforts to retrieve the state of our affairs. I have ordered Colonel Porter of the artillery to Niagara to take command of the whole light artillery at that post. You will find in him all the requisite practical information and industry in his line. A fine company of light artillery, all mounted, will proceed as rapidly as possible to replace such as have been lost. On their arrival it will, I presume, be expedient to send the greatest number of horses back to some place where forage may be conveniently obtained. I shall order Colonel McClure, with his battalion of uniform volunteers, to march from Onondaga to Niagara, and I yet hope that when the troops shall have been concentrated and put into a state of organization that

you will be able to pass into Canada and secure good winter quarters. I had directed General Van Rensselaer to call on the contractor for a deposit of provisions for at least two months, exclusive of the current issues. It will be expedient for you to repeat the requisition on the contractor. Captain Thomas, the Deputy-Quartermaster General, will join you with stores and funds for that department, and I trust you will find in him an active and attentive officer. It will be proper to give Colonel Parker the command of a brigade. In all important movements you will, I presume, consider it advisable to consult some of your principal officers. Every means in your power should be exerted to procure a sufficient number of boats and scows for transporting the troops. You should, if possible, be prepared for crossing with three thousand men with artillery *at once*. Faithful and experienced boatmen should be selected for managing the whole of the boats, and there should be a surplus in each boat as a provision to meet accidents. The greatest precaution should be observed in the arrangement for embarkation and debarkation. You will pardon me for being thus particular. The most important consideration will be that of ascertaining and agreeing on the best and surest points of crossing: much will depend on a judicious selection of the principal landing places. Your information will enable you, *with the advice of your principal officers, to decide* on these subjects in the most judicious manner. That you may be so fortunate as to succeed in retrieving and meliorating the state of your affairs, is my most ardent wish. You will by all practicable means endeavor to correspond with General Harrison, who I presume is now at Detroit with a very respectable force. I need not impress you with the necessity of cultivating a spirit of harmony and good understanding among all the corps under your command—on which the success of your operations will materially depend. I have been establishing a line of expresses between this place and Niagara, by which despatches may pass in about forty-four hours. You will direct where the non-commissioned officers of the express will be stationed, near your quarters. The line will, I trust, be completed within two or three days after this reaches you.

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
22nd October, 1812.

(No. 14.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that in consequence of a despatch which I have received from Major-

General Dearborn expressing a wish that I would admit the officers and privates of the American army, now prisoners at Quebec, to their parole, and understanding at the same time from the papers he transmitted to me that it was the President's desire, in order to lessen the calamities of war, that all persons already made prisoners on either side should be exchanged without delay, for which purpose an arrangement has been entered into by the American Government and Mr. Baker as respected naval prisoners, I have given directions for two of the transports now at Quebec to be immediately fitted up for the reception of all the American prisoners at that place, for the purpose of transporting them on their parole to Boston, to which place they will proceed without delay, and where I have no doubt they will be exchanged as soon as the arrangement above mentioned shall be completed.

I take the opportunity of once more earnestly soliciting Your Lordship for a supply of arms, accoutrements and clothing for the militia forces in the Canadas. In fact, without the first two articles His Majesty's service in this part of the world may experience serious inconvenience.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 296.)

District General Order.

Fort George, 21st October, 1812.

Officers in command of divisions will immediately inspect the different companies of militia under their orders and will make an exchange of arms so that there may not be any except of one description in the same company: for instance, where there are two companies having mixed arms of French and English they will mutually exchange them so that the one may have all English and the other French. This arrangement will preclude the possibility of mistake in the distribution of ammunition.

By order,

Thos. Evans,
B. M.

Colonel Parker to General Smyth.

Colonel Parker has the honor to report to General Smyth that agreeably to his orders he has caused to be collected all the boats that could be found last evening, and had them carried up the creek to an old field about a mile above the bridge, where they are left under a small guard.

He has also obtained a promise from Lieutenant Angus of the navy to send out a party of sailors to collect all the boats they can find on the coast and convey them to the same place.

Colonel Parker would beg leave to suggest to the General the propriety of placing these boats under charge of a careful officer, and, as many of them are leaky and scarce of oars, have them carefully prepared for service.

From report Colonel Parker is of opinion that the Secretary of War will probably urge a descent on Canada this fall, but he supposes that a discretionary power will certainly be given to the commanding officer on the lines. From the present state of the Quartermaster's and Commissary's department, from the almost total want of discipline in the regular troops, and from the little confidence that can be placed in the militia force, it would appear that a successful issue could hardly be expected, and defeat might prove highly injurious to our country. If the General's intention should be entirely turned to the discipline of the troops, even to the 10th of next month, it is feared that after that period it would be too late to put the troops under a comfortable cover before the winter sets in, which might be attended with the most fatal consequences. Would it not therefore be better to detail six or eight men, best qualified for the service, from each company to commence building the huts while the residue are employed on drill?

Whilst Colonel Parker has taken the liberty of making the foregoing observations, he begs leave to assure the General of his entire submission to his better judgment, and of his determination to promote his views by every exertion that his feeble health and abilities will permit.

22nd October, 1812.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 22nd Oct., 1812.

In consequence of the morning states not having been sent in for some mornings past from the posts of Fort Erie, Chippawa and Queenston the service has been much retarded. The Major-General looks to the officers in command of divisions for the most pointed attention on their part to the furnishing the Brigade-Major with accurate daily states, agreeable to the order on that subject of July 2nd, 1812.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Captain John E. Wool, 13th U. S. Infantry, to Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer.

BUFFALO, Oct. 23, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to communicate to you the circumstances attending the storming of Queenstown battery on the 13th inst.: with those which happened previously you are already well acquainted.

In pursuance of your order we proceeded round the point and ascended the rocks, which brought us partly in rear of the battery. We took it without much resistance. I immediately formed the troops in rear of the battery and fronting the village, when I observed General Brock with his troops formed, consisting of four companies of the 49th Regiment and a few militia, marching for our left flank. I immediately detached a party of 150 men to take possession of the heights above Queenston battery and to hold General Brock in check, but in consequence of his superior force they retreated. I sent a reinforcement: notwithstanding which the enemy drove us to the edge of the bank, when, with the greatest exertions, we brought the troops to a stand and ordered the officers to bring their men to a charge as soon as the ammunition was expended, which was executed with some confusion, and in a few moments the enemy retreated. We pursued them to the edge of the heights, when Colonel McDonald had his horse shot from under him and himself was mortally wounded. In the interim General Brock, in attempting to rally his forces, was killed, when the enemy dispersed in every direction. As soon as it was practicable I formed the troops in a line on the heights fronting the village and immediately detached flanking parties, which consisted of Capt. Machesney of the 6th Regiment, Lieutenant Smith and Ensign Grosvenor, with a small detachment of riflemen, who had at that moment arrived: at the same time I ordered Lieutenant Gansevoort and Lieutenant Randolph with a detachment of artillery to drill out an 18-pounder which had been previously spiked, and if possible to bring it to bear upon the village. The wounded and prisoners I ordered to be collected and sent to the guard house. About this time, which was about three or four o'clock in the afternoon, Lieut.-Colonel Christie arrived and took the command. He ordered me across the river to get my wounds dressed. I remained a short time. Our flanking parties had been driven in by the Indians, but General Wadsworth and other officers arriving we had a short skirmish with them, and they retreated and I crossed the river.

The officers engaged in storming the battery were Captains Wool and Ogilvie, Lieuts. Kearney, Hugunin, Carr and Sammons

of the 13th Regiment, Lieuts. Gansevoort and Randolph of the light artillery, and Major Lush of the militia.

I recommend to your particular notice Lieuts. Randolph, Carr and Kearney for their brave conduct exhibited during the whole of the action.

BUFFALO, 11th Nov., 1812.

To Captain John E. Wool, 13th Infantry:

DEAR SIR,—Agreeably to your request of the 13th inst., we have no hesitation to declare that the statement of Queenstown battle, fought on the 13th ultimo, which was said to be given by Capt. Ogilvie of the 13th Regiment of Infantry, and which appeared in the New York *Columbian* of the 27th October last, to be with few exceptions totally false, and that so far from considering Capt. Ogilvie as having command of the detachment which stormed Queenstown battery and defeated General Brock, that we most sincerely believe that if he had commanded he would have surrendered the detachment at the approach of General Brock prisoners of war. And in justice to yourself, we think it our duty to state we do not believe there was a single officer, until after the defeat of General Brock, who considered any other person having command but yourself. And that we believe had it not been for your exertions we should not have defeated General Brock with the force under his command.

You are at liberty to make any use of this letter which you may think proper.

THOMAS B. RANDOLPH,
Lieut. Light Artillery,
and other officers.

NEW YORK, 21st Dec., 1812.

MY DEAR WOOL,—I arrived here last evening and have learned that it is of importance to me to proceed to Washington. I have found the public opinion here just what you would wish with regard to yourself—everybody giving you the exclusive title to the affair of the morning, without the interference of myself or any other field officer, except perhaps some idle reports that Fenwick received some of his wounds in the attack on the battery. But you are universally known and acknowledged as the officer who took possession of the height. I have consulted with some friends whether it would be well in me to make a publication on the subject, but they

say the matter is perfectly understood now, and that the public are satisfied with reports and statements about Queenstown.

Your friend,

JOHN CHRYSTIE,
Lieut.-Col. 13th Infantry.

ALBANY, 24th Dec., 1812.

SIR,—In my official despatch to General Dearborn, I was not sufficiently informed to do justice to your bravery and good conduct in the attack of the enemy on the Heights of Queenstown. The manner in which you met and repulsed the troops under General Brock when he fell, with the party under your command, merits the notice of government, and I hope your promotion will stimulate others to emulate your example.

Yours respectfully,
S. V. RENSSELAER.

December 27, 1812.

To the Editor of the New York Evening Post:

SIR,—I perceive in your paper of last evening a copy of a letter from Lieutenant Randolph, referring to a statement published in the *Columbian* some time since. Of that publication I was not the author; it was merely the result of a conversation that took place on board the steam boat between some gentlemen and myself, though I assert that the contents, with some corrections, were strictly correct. I never withheld from Captain Wool that respect due to the seniority of his rank, nor ever arrogated to myself the exclusive applause of the affair at Queenstown; on the contrary, every individual officer without distinction concerned in that enterprise was entitled to an equal share of praise. After we had gained the Heights, Captain Wool, being the oldest officer on the ground, took the command, and gave his respective orders, which were obeyed by all with alacrity and pleasure. Instead of derogating from the merits of that gallant officer, his conduct excited my highest admiration and secured to himself a wreath of unfading laurels. I regret that the misconception of his friends should have induced such illiberal remarks, for if I cannot rise by my own merits I would rather die a private in the ranks than rob even a common soldier of his well earned fame.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours, &c.,

P. OGILVIE,
Junior Capt., 13th U. S. Infantry.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 22nd December, 1812.)

Major-General Van Rensselaer to Governor Tompkins.

[Communicated for publication by the Governor.]

BUFFALO, October, 23rd, 1812.

SIR,—The daily expectation of Your Excellency's arrival on the Niagara frontier, since the action of the 13th, has prevented my making an official communication to you on that subject. But having now received Major-General Dearborn's permission to resign my command, I propose to proceed immediately to Albany.

Under these circumstances I have determined to furnish Your Excellency with a copy of my despatch of the 14th, to Major-General Dearborn, reserving for future communication some documents calculated to furnish a more full explanation of the movements of the army.

I cannot, however, in justice to my own feelings, to merit and to the service, close without noticing to Your Excellency a number of officers whose conduct in the late action would have reflected great honor upon veteran soldiers, and entitles them to the notice of Your Excellency and the gratitude of their country.

Brigadier-General Wadsworth proved himself an officer capable of commanding with promptness, coolness and decision in all the vicissitudes of battle, and though he was fortunate enough to escape wounds scarcely a garment he had on but bears more than one mark of honorable testimony.

Colonel Van Rensselaer was in the first boat and was the first man on shore. In the most gallant manner he led the van of the first column through a very severe fire, and when four wounds prevented him from proceeding, he gave his orders with decisive firmness and they were effectually performed. Major Lush acted as his volunteer aid, and his courage and conduct in the field were highly honorable to a young officer.

Lieut.-Colonel Bloom was early in the action, and when a wound obliged him to return from the field he persevered in his efforts to urge on reinforcements.

Lieut.-Colonels Allen, Stranahan and Mead exerted themselves to get as many of their men as possible to the field, and faced the enemy to the last.

Major Spencer, aide-de-camp to General Wadsworth, is in all respects an excellent officer, and his conduct in the field was honorable.

Lieutenant Smith and Ensign Grosvenor of Major Moseley's riflemen were very brave, active and efficient in the field.

I would only add that, after all the toils and operations of a very perplexing campaign, to be obliged to witness the sacrifice of a victory so gallantly won on the shrine of doubt is mortifying indeed.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 23rd Oct., 1812.

The 1st Lincoln companies of militia, stationed at Queenston, will, on the receipt of this order, immediately march for Fort George, and report their arrival to Colonel Claus.

2nd. Captains Hatt and Durand of the 5th Lincoln flank companies will hold themselves in readiness to march for Chippawa at a moment's notice.

Mr. Adj. Clark will order one sergeant and six privates from the militia stationed at Niagara on board the *Regent* to escort prisoners to York.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, Oct. 23rd, 1812.

The detachment of the 49th Regiment, under Lieut. Bartley, will remove from Wintermute's to Putnam's. It will march early to-morrow morning. The 3rd Lincoln Militia, under the command of Major Warren, will march to-morrow morning from Miller's to Wintermute's. The three companies of the 5th Lincoln Militia will march early to-morrow morning; 40 will be stationed at Palmer's and the remainder occupy the quarters at Andrew Miller's.

The flank companies of the Fourth Lincoln Militia will march early to-morrow morning for Chippawa, and report the same to Lieut.-Colonel Clark.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS.

General Smyth to General Dearborn.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Oct. 24th, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 21st instant, and shall fail in nothing in my power to retrieve the state of our affairs.

The affair of Queenston diminished our force 2,000 men; one-

half of which were killed, wounded and prisoners, and the other half deserted or were discharged, in consequence of some battalions being greatly reduced.

General Van Rensselaer transferred to me the command on the 15th and on the 16th, I broke up the camp at Lewiston, sent the 14th Infantry, under Colonel Winder, to Niagara, the militia artillery to a battery opposite the Heights of Queenston, the militia infantry and riflemen to Schlosser, and I returned with the 5th, 13th, 12th and 20th to my camp near Buffalo; the troops of the Light and 2nd Artillery are at Black Rock.

In a creek at Black Rock I am collecting boats, and there I propose to cross. The Canadian shore is easy of access from Erie to Chippawa. There are some batteries opposite Black Rock which I can have carried when I please.

Boats are wanting. I have sent to have those which Chrystie brought to Niagara carried to Schlosser; this will be a difficult work. Scows are wanting and essential. As yet I have no funds.

The reinforcement you mention I hope will encourage those under my command. Is is said 500 soldiers have arrived at Fort George since the battle, that the Indians have gone home to gather their corn, and that three-fourths of the militia are called into service. As the enemy's regular troops and flankers amount to 3,000 men, their militia, if called out as said, may swell their force to 10,000 men.

It has seemed to me, Sir, that the three armies should strike on the same day. If not, the command of the lakes will enable the enemy to beat us in detail.

The sailors here will furnish me with excellent boatmen. I shall take the opinions of a few of my most enlightened officers at times, but I will decide.

There is some difficulty in giving Colonel Parker a brigade, as Schuyler contests his right to rank. Winder is an officer of the first class.

In consequence of the loss of five companies of the 13th, I consolidated the 5th and 13th, as was done by the Adjutant-General in the case of the 12th and 20th. In consequence, Milton asked and obtained a furlough. His regiment was badly governed and I found I had nothing to expect from him.

I do not expect the contractor to supply us with provisions. I received a number of returns at Lewiston: "unfit for duty for want of provisions."

We much want some cannon of large calibre, for the fort of Niagara and the batteries of Black Rock. A powerful battery at the latter place would protect our landing at noon-day.

The ship carpenters have gone off, which I much regret.

Colonel Porter will doubtless be of great service to us, but I should have preferred his coming to Black Rock.

I shall keep you advised of our progress.

General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.

BUFFALO, 24th October, 1812.

SIR,—Having this day resigned to you the command of the army on the Niagara frontier, and being now on the eve of my departure for Albany, I conceive it to be a duty I owe to myself, to merit and to the service, to recommend to your particular notice and favor, and through you, Sir, to Major-General Dearborn, the following brave officers, who distinguished themselves in the first detachment of troops who were engaged in storming the redoubt upon the Heights of Queenston on the 13th inst.: Captains Wool and Ogilvie, Lieuts. Kearney, Carr, Hugunin and Sammons of the 13th Infantry, Lieut. Randolph of the Light Artillery, who volunteered his services and commanded the vanguard; Lieuts. Rathbone and Gansevoort of the Artillery.

And if, Sir, through want of particular information I may have omitted any who are known to have distinguished themselves on this occasion, I beg you will have the goodness to insert their names in such a manner as to do justice to their merit.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.)

Militia Orders.

NIAGARA, 24th October, 1812.

Officers commanding corps of militia at Niagara will give in a list of such old men as they may think should be allowed to go home, stating their age.

The First Lincoln Regiment, Captain Powell's company, Light Dragoons, Capt. Swayze's brigade, and Capt. Runchey's company will parade on Monday next at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of being mustered.

Lieut. Wm. Servos will join Capt. McEwen's flank company of the 1st Lincoln Regiment, vice Lieut. Secord: Lieut. Matthew Crooks will join Capt. Abraham Nelles's company, vice Lieutenant Servos, Ensign Peter McCollum will join Capt. Wm. Crooks's company, vice Lieut. Thos. Butler promoted.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 24th Oct., 1812.

Appointment in the Niagara Light Dragoons.

Quartermaster Charles Ingersoll to be cornet vice John Pell Major, deceased.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Militia Order.

NIAGARA, October 24th, 1812.

The six battalion companies of the 1st Regiment of Lincoln Militia will be formed into three, as follows:

Captain Jones's and Captain Jac. Ball's, No. 1, to be commanded by Captain Jones.

Captain McClellan's and Captain Lawe's, No. 2, commanded by Captain McClellan.

Captain George Ball's and Captain Servos's, No. 3, Captain G. Ball.

Sergeants to the above three companies are as follows:

Captain Jones, Lieut. May, Lieut. Stevenson, Ensign Jos. Clement.	Capt. Jones's men. J. Ball's.....	40 40 — 80	Sergt. A. Stull, Sergt. R. Brown, Robt. Runchey, Lewis Haines.
Capt. McClellan, Lieut. E. Secord, Lieut. H. Pawling, Ensign P. M. Ball.	Capt. McClellan . . Captain Lawes....	42 40 — 82	Sergeant A. Ross, Sergeant J. Hulbert. Sergeant Yokum. Sergeant Geo. Reace.
Captain Geo. Ball, Lieut. Hainer, Lieut. Smith, Ensign D. Servos.	G. Ball..... Servos.....	50 30 — 80	Sergt. John Fletcher, Sergt. Jacob Darby, Sergt. Sparback, Sergt. John Fox

Captain McClellan's company will occupy the quarters left by Captain W. Crooks's and Nelles's flank company, and the lower room will in future be occupied as the orderly room.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

Sunday Evening, Oct. 25th, 1812.

DEAR ALEXANDER,—On the 23rd General Van Rensselaer, by

permission, resigned his command to Brigadier-General Smyth, and to-morrow morning starts for Albany. . . .

. . . . . .

The several actions were sharp, but all the world was not killed or wounded as some have represented. Exact truth upon the subject can never be known—it is impossible—the aggregate of our information would about warrant this: Killed, 60; wounded, 170; prisoners, balance against us, say 720. As to *numbers* the slaughter was probably about even on both sides, but characters differ. We lost no officer of higher rank than a captain.

All Canada mourns her truly gallant Brock, and Colonel Macdonnell, his aide-de-camp, was the Attorney-General of the Province—their second idol. I knew him. Two Indian chiefs fell—we took one. The armistice which was agreed upon after the battle for three days has been continued and now exists. When it will end I cannot say. Since the battle everything has been conducted in that character which will forever honor civilized nations. The salute which we fired at Brock's funeral almost overwhelmed General Sheaffe. With sensibility which almost choked his utterance, he exclaimed to an officer standing by him: "*Noble minded as General Brock was, he would have ordered the same had a like disaster befallen the enemy.*"

On hearing this General V. R. was almost overwhelmed. . .

Governor Tompkins, by exceeding hard driving, has so managed and economized his time as to be able to be in season to get there too late. He arrived this day. Why or for what is more than I can tell you. He has been closeted almost the whole day with the General, but I cannot learn that he has any plan, or plan of a plan, or copy of a plan's plan. . . . .

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 273-4.)

Militia General Orders.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
NIAGARA, 25th Oct., 1812.

Militia G. Orders.

His Honor the President is pleased to make the following promotions and appointments:

4TH REGIMENT LINCOLN.

Lieutenant Thos. Butler to be captain.... 25th Oct., 1812.
Ensign Henry Dochstader to be lieut.... " " "
Ensign Robt. Pettitt to be lieut..... " " "

Ensign Wm. Chisholm to be lieut..... 25th Oct., 1812.
Peter McCollum, gent., to be ensign..... " " "
Henry Pawling, gent., to be ensign..... " " "
Adam Simmerman, gent., to be ensign... " " "
Ezra Barnum to be quartermaster..... " " "

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjutant-General, Militia.

Militia General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 25th October, 1812.

Militia G. O.

His Honor the President is pleased to make the following promotions and appointments:

1ST REGIMENT LINCOLN MILITIA.

Ensign George Hainer to be lieut..... 25th Oct., 1812.
Ensign William L. Smith to be lieut..... " " "
Sergt. John Robertson to be ensign..... " " "
Sergt. Peter Warren to be ensign..... " " "

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjutant-General, Militia.

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
October 25th, 1812.

M. G. O.

His Honor the President is pleased to make the following appointments:

2ND YORK REGIMENT.

Henry Beaseley, Gent., to be ensign.

Lieut. Applegarth is to do duty in Captain Applegarth's company, and Ensigns Hepburne and Beaseley in Captain Thompson's.

By order.

Garrison Order.

FORT GEORGE, October 25th, 1812.

The Garrison will be under arms tomorrow at daylight to witness the execution of the sentence of a court martial of which

Captain Williams, 49th Regiment, will be President. Capt. Derenzy will be pleased to superintend the parade on that occasion.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,
B. M.

Militia Order.

NIAGARA, Oct. 25th, 1812.

Those men whose names were given in yesterday as infirm will receive a pass from the officers commanding their respective regiments, but are to consider themselves liable to come forward the instant their services may be required. Officers will be particularly careful that those men who go home deliver up their arms, ammunition and accoutrements.

Commander George B. Hall to Lieut.-Colonel Myers.

H. M. SHIP QUEEN CHARLOTTE,
OFF FORT ERIE, October 27th, 1812.

SIR,—Should His Excellency the Commander of the Forces approve of the establishment of officers and men which I submitted as in my opinion necessary for His Majesty's vessels on these lakes, I beg to recommend the following gentlemen for promotion, viz.: Mr. Robert Irvine for a lieutenant, Mr. James Fleet to be master of this ship, and Mr. James Fortier to be mate. The former gentleman is deserving of notice for his gallant defence of the *Caledonia*, of which he was late master. Mr. Fleet is an old experienced seaman and has served with me since the commencement of hostilities, and has rendered me great assistance, and Mr. Fortier is a very promising young man, and I trust will merit your future protection. As the enemy has undoubtedly got a number of seamen on the frontiers of the lakes, there is little doubt of their risking everything to try and obtain the command upon them. The want of seamen for His Majesty's vessels is already severely felt; none of them have more than a sufficient number to navigate them in peaceable times. If you should think that by my going to Quebec after the close of navigation I could procure men, I would gladly undertake that service, or any other which you might think could be useful in procuring seamen.

After the ships are laid up for the winter I would wish to have

a small brigade of field guns attached to this department, and one or two non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery, for the purpose of drilling the seamen to them. This, I think, would be found useful should the enemy attempt anything during the winter.

(Canadian Archives, C. 729.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 27th October, 1812.

We are indebted to Colonel Stranahan for the following list of officers taken prisoners at Queenston on the 13th inst. Colonel Stranahan corroborates all the material facts contained in our statement of last week.

NEW YORK MILITIA OFFICERS.

Brigadier-General Wm. Wadsworth, Major Wm. H. Spencer, aide; Lieut.-Colonels Stranahan, Allen, Mead; Majors Holland, Smith.

Captains Pettingal, Felt*; Adjutant Stafford*; Lieuts. Shephard, Houghton, Culley, Smith; Ensigns Picken, Denton, all of Lieut.-Colonel Stranahan's regiment.

Captains Clark, Brown; Lieuts. Phillips, Robinson, Sweney* of Lieut.-Colonel Allen's regiment.

Captain Cronk of Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin's regiment.

Captains Bacon, Ireland, Stanley, Brinkerhoff, Sutton, Eldridge, Barber, Ellis; Lieuts. Smith, Richmond, Price, Daniels, Kishley, Holcomb, Soverill*, Wilson; Ensigns Ireland, White, Canada, Boughton, Sperry, Cobb, Waldroff, of infantry and rifle corps not ascertained.

UNITED STATES OFFICERS.

Colonel Scott, Lieut.-Colonels Christie*, Fenwick*, Major Mullany†; Captains Gibson‡, Machesney‡, Ogilvy; Lieuts. Randolph‡, Kearney, Sammons, Hugunin, Fink, Carr, Turner, Totten‡, Bayley, Phelps†, Clark*, McCarty; Ensign Reeve.

*Wounded. †Paroled. ‡Exchanged.

Governor Tompkins and suite arrived in this village on Sunday, accompanied by Messrs. Livingstone and Macomb, aides-de-camp.

Major-General Hall left this village on Thursday last to attend the approaching session of the Legislature on the first Tuesday of November.

Major-General Van Rensselaer left town yesterday morning for

his residence at Albany. Colonel Van Rensselaer remains in this village. His wounds, we understand, are in a good way of healing.

ARMISTICE.

At the expiration of the armistice concluded between General Van Rensselaer and General Sheaffe, another was agreed on between General Smyth and General Sheaffe, to be terminated by either at 30 hours notice.

THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Came down from Malden last week, and on Sunday last anchored at Fort Erie.

MILITARY STORES, ETC.

A considerable supply of arms, ammunition, baggage, etc., have lately arrived on the lines. Several companies of light horse and one or two infantry companies have also arrived.

ACCIDENT AT FORT NIAGARA.

On the day of the Queenston conflict a 12-pounder burst in Fort Niagara and killed a private in Captain Leonard's company named Shaw, and another lost both legs, named Todd, who died in a few hours afterwards. There was but little other damage done. The cause of the explosion was owing to a heavy charge not sufficiently rammed home.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO, Oct. 26th, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel McClure will upon his arrival at the headquarters in Buffalo report himself and the detachment under his command to General Alexander Smyth, Commandant of the Forces on the Niagara frontier.

The said detachment is hereby placed under the command of General Smyth, and the officers and soldiers thereof are strictly enjoined to pay assiduous attention to the discipline and subordination, and so to conduct themselves in every respect as to maintain the high reputation for patriotism and soldierly conduct for which they have heretofore been distinguished.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

J. W. LIVINGSTONE,
Aide-de-Camp.

(Tompkins Papers. New York State Library.)

General Dearborn to General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH,
October 28th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letters of the 22nd and 24th were received at 5 o'clock P. M. yesterday. This will leave here to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock. I have this day received information from General Bloomfield that about 800 men, with several field pieces, left Montreal for your neighborhood on the 14th instant; of course the sooner you are prepared to strike the better. From the accounts I have received from Fort George, I am induced to believe that, exclusive of Fort Erie and its immediate dependencies, the whole force on the British side of the river does not amount to more than twelve or fourteen hundred, including the militia which were in service at the time of the unfortunate partial attack, and the derangement the death of General Brock must have occasioned in relation to the militia and Indians must have a considerable effect on their measures of defence, if they are not allowed too long a time for procuring reinforcements and forming a new organization. I expect that General Bloomfield will move immediately towards Montreal, and I calculate on his being able to beat up the several posts between his camp and the river St. Lawrence. You should be explicit and positive in your orders to the contractor for having at least two months' deposit of provisions on hand, exclusive of the current issues. If you should determine on crossing from the vicinity of Black Rock, will not the enemy have it in his power to destroy the bridge over Chippawa creek and render your passage difficult? You will, I presume, think it advisable to make one or more feints at other points, while your main body crosses at the place decided on.

I am induced to suspect that the actual benefit of heavy ordnance in facilitating a landing has been overrated. Some twelve pounders in scows would, in my opinion, be of more service in covering a landing than the fire of heavy pieces at long shots. And when a footing is secured on the Canada shore, the ordnance in their batteries must undoubtedly fall into your hands. Neither General Van Rensselaer nor yourself have said anything in relation to the arrival of the Pennsylvania Militia. I presume they must have arrived or that you will have sent in quest of them with orders to hurry on as quick as possible. An additional supply of powder, balls, paper, &c., has been ordered to your post. Colonel Porter left this place on the 24th with 100 light artillerists, all mounted and well appointed in every respect. He will proceed in the stage to Canandaigua and from thence to your quarters as rapidly as pos-

sible. You will perceive the propriety and necessity of a return being made of all the troops under your command, which has been too long delayed.

Militia Orders.

NIAGARA, October 28th, 1812.

Officers commanding companies will, without delay, send a trusty sergeant and a file of men to bring in those men who have absented themselves. They will have a pass for a limited time for the purpose. On the arrival of the prisoners they are to be sent to the guard and their names and to what company they belong reported to the commanding officer.

Officers commanding companies will parade their subalterns and men at their different barracks at half-past 6 o'clock in the morning, call the roll, examine the men's musketry, accoutrements and ammunition and report their state and any deficiency at the foot of the morning report, and march to the general parade at 10 o'clock when a drill is ordered. The officers not on duty will fall in with the men. At half-past two o'clock they will again parade at their barracks, the rolls called, and from there march to the parade ground at three o'clock for the purpose of drill, and from drill they will return at 5 o'clock, parade at 6 o'clock in the evening, the captains will again call the roll and their subalterns will attend. At the different roll calls absentees, whether officers or men, without leave of the captain commanding the company, for which they are to give some very sufficient reason, and this only allowed from roll call to roll call, shall for the first offence do double duty, and so on in proportion.

General District Militia Order.

HEADQUARTERS, YORK,
29th Oct., 1812.

A communication having been made to headquarters by the commissariat stating the existing difficulty in procuring forage for the wants of the militia cavalry now embodied, Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to call upon the commanding officers at York, Fort George, Kingston, Prescott and Amherstburg for a return of the present establishment and distribution of dragoons within their respective commands.

The Major-General requests that an immediate report may be

transmitted from each of the above posts, stating whether any and what reduction may be made without producing any prejudice to the service.

By order of His Honor,
MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE.
J. B. GLEGG, Capt., A. D. C.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 29th October, 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe has been pleased to appoint Samuel Street, Esquire and Thomas McCormick, Esquire, additional paymasters to the militia forces serving betwixt Fort Erie and Fort George, appointments to take place from the 24th inst., incle. They will be allowed 10 per diem army pay and forage for one horse while so employed. John Symington, Esquire, will come under the same regulation with respect to pay and forage from the 24th inst. These gentlemen will proceed to muster the different corps and detachments to the 24th inst. as follows, estimates for the payment of which will be furnished to the Deputy Commanding General, agreeably to the order of 1st August:

2nd, 3rd, 5th — Lincoln Regiments by Paymaster Samuel Street and Oxford flank companies.

4th Lincoln,
2nd York,
Capt. Kerby's company of artillery,
Captain Robinson's rifle company,
— Paymaster McCormick.

1st Lincoln,
1st York,
3rd do.,
Capt. Powell's artillery,
Dragoons,
Drivers,
Corps of Colour.
— Paymaster John Symington.

By order of the Major-General,
THOS. EVANS,
B. M.

General District Militia Order.

HEADQUARTERS, YORK,
29th Oct., 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe having observed in this day's state of the York Garrison that under the head of Captain Arnold's company there appeared to be one captain, two subalterns, two sergeants and only 17 privates, he considers it his duty to remark upon so extraordinary a deviation from the regulations established by the Militia Act, and by the General Order founded thereon bearing date, 9th July, 1812.

The Major-General is therefore pleased to direct that the privates of Captain Arnold's company shall be permitted to return to their homes in order to stand a ballot with the other individuals intended to complete the companies of the First York Regiment now in garrison.

By order of His Honor,
MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE, President.
J. B. GLEGG, Capt., A. D. C.

To Major Allan
or officer commanding Militia,
York.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 29th Oct., 1812.

The light company of the Newfoundland Regiment will hold itself in immediate readiness to march for Fort Erie. Those men belonging to the Newfoundland Regiment and lately returned from being prisoners of war will be equipped with arms, &c., and be furnished with clothing so as to be able to march with the light company of that regiment.

2. One subaltern, two sergeants and 40 rank and file of the 41st Regiment will immediately march from Chippawa and occupy the quarters lately occupied by the detachment under Ensign Jebault at Miller's. Major-General Shaw will be pleased to give directions that every assistance be afforded from the line towards instructing the different militia detachments in that neighborhood in the military exercises.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Colonel Thomas Parker to General Smyth.

CAMP, October 30th, 1812.

SIR,—You did me the honor last evening to consult me about the propriety of forming a brigade, to be composed of the regular troops expected in camp and some of the volunteers and militia now on the lines.

I have been made acquainted from different sources with the disposition of the troops at Buffalo and Colonel Swift's regiment, and I think there is only one company amongst them that would not corrupt any regular troops that they might be associated with; and even that company would not be willing to be subjected to regular discipline. What may be the disposition of the volunteer Irish Greens I do not know, but upon the whole I should think it best to keep the regular troops entirely distinct from them.

I would beg leave to recommend that the militia and volunteers be formed into a distinct brigade and put under strict drill. If they will not bear this, they had better be at home.

I must beg leave, Sir, to call your attention to the requisition made for flannel, as it will be of infinite service to our men.

General Smyth to General Dearborn.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, October 30, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive to-day at 4 o'clock P. M. your letter of the 28th instant.

We may in a few days have together seventy boats that would carry over three thousand five hundred men, but we have no scows. I have set all the carpenters and some citizens to building of scows. We want tools and materials. The Deputy-Quartermaster gives it as his opinion that we can have ten scows in twenty days.

I would cross in three days if I had the means; without them it would be an injustice to the nation and myself to attempt it. I must not be defeated.

The New York Greens and a troop of volunteer cavalry have arrived. The Twenty-third Regiment, the Pennsylvania Volunteers and those from Baltimore have not arrived.

The Deputy-Quartermaster has brought on checks instead of money, and he is unable to make payments. His letter to the Quartermaster General is enclosed, and I request that money may be sent him immediately.

If I can beat the enemy on the plains of Erie and take that place I will find means to get to Fort George, whatever may become of the bridge at Chippawa.

Colonel Wm. H. Winder to General Smyth.

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 30th, 1812.

SIR,—Captain Archer of the 2nd Artillery arrived at this post this morning. He has with him about sixty men and two six-pounders. His instructions were to report himself to Lieutenant-Colonel Scott at this place.

Under the circumstances I have deemed it advisable to recommend his waiting your orders here, which he will do. I send this by an express.

In a letter which I addressed you by Mr. Suchet, I suggested the propriety of retaining ten or twelve boats on this end of the line; a knowledge of your wishes on this subject might prevent the labor and trouble of bringing them back from Schlosser.

The movement of troops and boats from this end of the line has occasioned a considerable movement of men from the other side of the river towards Erie. They have been principally, if not altogether, militia. The number estimated by the cavalry stationed between this and Lewiston as passing up are from four to five hundred.

This morning the armed ship *Earl Moira* has arrived, accompanied by a small unarmed schooner, having a number of men on her deck, but how many there are cannot yet be ascertained, as they have not landed.

I shall gather all the men I can and parade them near here to-morrow. My object will be to prevent an accumulation of force against your end of the line by making a display here; should your movements render it necessary I can send them on to that end of the line by a feint.

Should not Captain Archer be necessary to you, he will be of important service here.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, October 31st, 1812.

The light company of the Newfoundland Regiment, under the command of Captain Whalen, will march to-morrow morning at 4 o'clock for Fort Erie. The men of the Newfoundland Regiment, mentioned in the orders of the 29th October, will march with them. The Deputy-Quartermaster General will be pleased to provide the necessary conveyance for the baggage.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

Militia District Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
1st November, 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe has witnessed with the highest satisfaction the manly and cheerful spirit with which the militia on this frontier have borne the privations which peculiar circumstances have imposed on them. He hopes, however, to be soon enabled by the arrival of the liberal supplies ordered from the Lower Province to furnish them with articles which in contributing essentially to their comfort will afford him particular gratification, for he cannot but feel that their conduct entitles them to every attention he can bestow on them. It has furnished the best characteristics of the soldier, manly constancy under fatigue, and determined bravery when opposed to the enemy—by a perseverance in the exercise of those noble qualities they may be assured of accomplishing the glorious task in which they are engaged. The armistice will shortly be terminated and an attack is to be expected immediately after its termination, but Major-General Sheaffe is confident that any attempt to make an impression on a frontier defended by such men cannot succeed—that it will only heap new disgrace and disaster on the enemy and add fresh laurels to those which have been already acquired by the brave militia on this frontier.

Major-General Sheaffe directs that officers commanding corps or detachments shall make a report of those individuals under their command who particularly distinguish themselves by meritorious conduct.

The attention of officers commanding corps and detachments is called to the issue and distribution of provisions, that it may be ascertained whether they are received by those under their command at the proper periods and in the regulated quantities, and if any delay or irregularity should occur in the issue of them it is to be reported through the proper channels for the Major-General's information.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

BUFFALO, November 2nd, 1812.

. . . . . .

There was yesterday a severe cannonade below, probably on Lake Ontario. We have no intelligence, possibly a naval brush on

the lake. Just now Colonel Parker, the most respectable officer in Smyth's brigade, called to see us. He says the *Pennsylvania Militia will not cross over to Canada.* . . . .

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 276.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 3rd November, 1812.

SIR,—I have at least the satisfaction of reporting to Your Excellency the arrival of intelligence from Detroit and likewise from Michilimackinac. His Majesty's schooner *Lady Prevost* arrived some days since, bringing Mr. Robert Dickson and Mr. Crawford. When they left Detroit no other information had been received of the occurrences of the 13th of October than that Major-General Brock had fallen and Queenston was in the possession of the enemy. Colonel Procter, fearing that the communication was cut off, would not send a written communication either by them or by Colonel Caldwell or Lieut. Barnard, who have since arrived by land. The substance of what the last was directed to say to me is contained in a written statement herewith enclosed, to which I have added Mr. Dickson's intelligence.

While engaged in writing this despatch, Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp has arrived by the way of York, and has brought me Your Excellency's despatch of the 21st October. I beg that Your Excellency will accept my very grateful thanks for the way in which you have noticed my humble services. Fortune and the comparative composition of the corps which I commanded were quite adequate to the accomplishment of all that was effected on the 13th of October. I am much mortified to find that I omitted the names of Captain Chisholm, commanding a flank company of militia, and of Lieut. Ball, commanding the militia artillery attached to the post of Queenston. Captain Dennis's report, since transmitted, has partly supplied that omission; he commends highly both these officers, and in justice to them I have issued an order acknowledging my omission and their merit.

I sent to the Military Secretary some documents relative to appointments which appear to me to be beneficial to His Majesty's service; those in the barrack department were authorized by M. General Brock. I transmit also Major Heathcote's report of an attack made on the escort under his command, not being certain that a copy of it has been before sent down.

The enemy appears to be busily employed in preparing for another attack, and I believe has received reinforcements and supplies of various kinds. A number of large boats have been conveyed by land above the Falls and are on the communication between Schlosser and Black Rock, where the greater part of their force seems to be collected. I have strengthened the right of our line, and I intend detaching to it a portion of the Indians, of whom there are about four hundred here, but I shall be cautious of making any further diminution of the number on this flank.

I suspect that after their demonstration on the frontier of the Lower Province a large portion of their troops were withdrawn to act against the Upper Province.

We are yet employed in raising works for the protection of the interior of Fort George. The magazine is considered secure from the effects of hot shot.

The armistice still continues, and I hope will not be terminated before the arrival of the vessels with the supplies for the militia, many of whom are in a very destitute state with respect to clothing, and all in what regards bedding and barrack comforts in general. These wants cause discontent and desertion, but the conduct of a great majority of them is highly honorable to them, and I have not failed to encourage it by noticing it in public orders. Their number in this district has been so much increased since the nomination of a paymaster for it, and his business is so much in arrear, that I have been compelled to appoint two other paymasters for the corps distributed along the frontier.

I wrote to Captain Glegg, who is at York, to acquaint him with Your Excellency's gracious offer to him, which I have no doubt he will be proud to accept.

I hope that a favorable reception has been accorded to my request to have Captain Loring sent to me.

An express has arrived this afternoon from Colonel Procter. I transmit copies of the letters received by it.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 166.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, November 3rd, 1812.

Lieutenant Barnard of the 41st Regiment will do duty with the detachment of that regiment stationed at Fort George until further orders.

2nd. Captain Derenzy will be pleased to order a subaltern of

the 41st Regiment to proceed to Chippawa without delay and place himself under the orders of Captain Bullock.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Colonel Wm. H. Winder to General Smyth.

FORT NIAGARA, November 3, 1812.

SIR,—I avail myself of the opportunity by Lieut. Totten of the Engineers to write you. You will find him a useful and valuable officer in his professional line, and an estimable private man.

I shall send the clothing for the fifth, which is one barrel only, and a quantity of stockings, by Quartermaster Allison. I also enclose to you a return of clothing at this place, made to me by Captain Leonard. This list is exclusive of twenty-three tierces sent on to the Fourteenth, which contains coats, pantaloons, and vests only of winter clothing.

Another vessel arrived at Fort George yesterday evening. It was near dark and no accurate observation could be made from here. Captain Archer was at the Salt battery, directly opposite Fort George, and will be able to inform you more particularly. I have not seen him. It is said that a body of Indians landed from her, say one hundred. Every one of their brethren that we can raise should cross to meet them. I suspect the enemy relies very much upon his savage ally. As many militia riflemen as can in any sort be relied on and can be got to cross would be important. Should your plans permit a notice of twenty-four hours to be given to me before I move from here, I might make some movements to draw them toward this end of the line. By selecting the twilight of morning or evening I might give my force the appearance of a thousand men and make some indications of crossing.

My whole force is applied to the requisite labor of the garrison and batteries. I shall turn to drilling at every possible moment.

Jesse D. Elliott to General P. B. Porter.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, Nov. 3rd, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Until this moment I have been much engaged. My vessel, the *Genesee Packet*, re-named the *Conquest*, I have prepared for action. On the 6th instant we are to sail for Kingston against the British fleet, with a force much inferior to the enemy.

The brig *Oneida* of eighteen 24-pounder carronades, my vessel with two guns, one of 32 pounds, one of 24, 60 men; the *Diana*, of 11 guns, one of 24 pounds, 10 carronades 18-pounders; the *Charles and Ann* of 6 guns, one 32, one 24, four 32-pound carronades; four other schooners, mounting each a 32-pound gun, with four sixes. Twenty-four hours will decide the fate of the day. Good-bye, you shall again soon hear from me.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
3rd November, 1812.

D. G. O.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer of Militia, having arrived to exercise the duties of that appointment, agreeably to the General Order of 22d October, is to act for the present in the Niagara District. He will proceed without delay to the inspection of the several corps of militia therein, beginning with those at Queenston and dependencies and proceeding from thence to Fort Erie. He will then return and inspect those at Fort George and dependencies. He will particularly attend in the first instance to their equipment for active service in the field and ascertain their wants in what relates to essential articles of clothing, as well as those which are necessary for their comfort and accommodation in their quarters, the supplies for which, having arrived some time since at Kingston, may be expected with the first fair wind, to enable the Major-General to distribute the quantity that may be required as soon as the reports of deficiencies are received. The commanders of the several corps and detachments of militia will prepare for the information of Lt.-Col. Bisshopp the necessary return of their strength, in which the total number of each is to be accounted for and their arms, accoutrements and ammunition, with the reports of all deficiencies, &c.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp will please to apprize the commanders at the several posts of the periods at which he will inspect the militia attached to them. The Brigade Major will furnish to Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp a return of distribution of the corps of militia in the district.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,
B. M.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 3d November, 1812.)

On Thursday last His Excellency Governor Tompkins left this village for Albany to meet the Legislature, which convenes this day. While His Excellency was here we understand he had conferences with General Van Rensselaer and General Smyth, but the result of their deliberations has not transpired.

COURT MARTIAL.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE CENTRE,
Oct. 27th, 1812.

At a General Court Martial, of which Lieut.-Colonel Coles was president, was tried Cornelius Gorman, a private soldier in the 12th Regiment, for desertion, viz:

Near Baltimore in August or September last; at Sunbury, Pa., in September; at Lewiston in October. He had enlisted twice. He plead not guilty.

The Court, after mature deliberation, found the prisoner, Cornelius Gorman, guilty of the charges and specifications alleged against him, and sentenced him to be shot to death.

The Commanding General has read and considered the proceedings of the Court.

The infamous crime of desertion has become so common that the honor and safety of the nation demand that it should be put a stop to.

The General approves of the proceedings of the Court, and directs that their sentence shall be carried into execution under the superintendence of the officer of the day to-morrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.

At that hour all the troops of this encampment will be under arms except those on particular duty.

By order,

JAS. BANKHEAD,
Capt. and Brigade Major.

Three companies of Irish Greens, under Colonel McClure from New York and Albany, and a company of light horse from Columbia, have arrived here since our last.

(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 11th Nov., 1812.)

MANLIUS, Nov. 3.

The militia corps on the lines have dwindled and are dwindling

to mere skeletons. Some of the companies contain a less number of privates than of officers. The rifle corps from this county is reduced by sickness, prisoners to the British, &c., to less than the complement of a company, and Major Moseley has in consequence returned home.

(From File in New York Society Library.)

Lieut.-Col. J. W. Livingston to General Smyth.

BUFFALO, November 4, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to report the result of my inspection, as far as was in my power, of General Miller's brigade of militia and the organization of the same, as contemplated by your order of the 29th ultimo. I regret I am not enabled to make a favorable report, but the state of the brigade is such as to be little better than an undisciplined rabble, and it may be a question whether they are not of more dis-service than of use. The total want of order no doubt proceeds from the ignorance of the officers and the great familiarity which exists between them and their men. That this can be remedied perhaps is impossible while such materials are employed for officers. I have endeavored to select and retain in service the best, and such as I am told will not shrink from duty.

After waiting two days for the different returns, I found it impossible to obtain them, although I applied to the General and his Brigade Major, whose duty, I presume, it was to furnish them. This circumstance prevents my giving a statement of the exact number of men, arms, ammunition, &c. The arms in use are good, although not kept (with a few exceptions) in such order as they ought to be. I am informed there are about seven hundred and fifty men, of which four hundred and twenty were under arms on the day of inspection. On Saturday evening one hundred deserted, and no measures taken to bring them back. A spirit of mutiny seems to pervade the camp.

I shall leave this to-morrow for Geneva, and will take charge of any communication for His Excellency the Governor or any other you may wish to forward.

The Secretary of War to General Smyth.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Nov. 4th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of October 20th has been received. On the 21st of October Major-General Dearborn reported to this department that he had granted General Van Rensselaer's request to retire from

his command; that he had directed him to give over his command to you, and that he had written you in "a particular and explicit manner." You are too well acquainted with service to require to be informed that all communications respecting your command should be directed to that officer. A copy of your letter has been enclosed to General Dearborn.

Such ordnance as he may assign to Niagara must be sent from Albany. Transportation, whether by boats or waggons, is furnished by the Quartermaster's Department, and in case of failure or deficiency in rations, purchases should be made according to the provisions of the contract, for which purpose bills may be drawn on this department, properly advised, that the contractor may be made accountable.

John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

BUFFALO, 4th Nov., 1812.

. . . . . .

I understand that General Smyth is getting together all the boats he can; that the Pennsylvania Militia are looked for with solicitude; in short, that movements warrant the expectation that the descent upon Canada will shortly be renewed in this neighborhood. I have before advised you as to an opinion upon that subject. Experiment is the touch-stone of opinion. General Van Rensselaer had his opinion as to the best place for crossing the Niagara. He tested his opinion—the result is known—and General Smyth has certainly the same right to his opinion that General V. R. had to his, and when both are tested the world will be prepared to decide. I have but one hope, one prayer, in either case, which is for the best interest of the service, the highest honor of our arms, and the greatest weal of our country. What our militia will come to I know not. A daring mutiny broke out three days ago in Miller's brigade; 100 stacked their arms and marched off, 100 more stacked their arms and stood by them. The General and his principal officers came forward with great efforts, persuaded the enemy to return to their duty on the *promise* of *barracks* and *better quarters* in a few days. This may be relied on, as I have it from the mouth of one of the first officers of the brigade. General Miller is dismissed and has retired. His brigade is now consolidated with Colonel Dobbin's regiment. The firing mentioned in my last was a *sham battle* of Colonel Winder's regiment at Fort Niagara. . .

. . . . . .

Should any man say we had not *boats* eno' the truth is not in

him. The river is not, where the boats crossed, 300 yards wide: a passage might be easily made in five minutes. We had 12 boats which would carry 30 men each, and two which would carry 80 each. If on the Heights of Queenston there had been a sight to gratify curiosity every man of the army might have been over before 11 o'clock. I saw the boats on both sides idle. The *eternal truth* is that the men who had solemnly pledged themselves to go over would not.

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 278-9.)

District General Order.

November 4th, 1812.

A Royal Salute to be fired at Fort George at 12 o'clock to-morrow in celebration of the splendid and glorious victory achieved by the allied forces of Great Britain, Spain and Portugal, commanded by General Marquis Wellington, over the army under the command of Marshal Marmont. This brilliant victory was gained on the Formes near Salamanca on the 22nd July, by the complete defeat and rout of the French army, with the loss of their artillery and upwards of ten thousand prisoners in a pursuit of three successive days. The loss of the enemy was immense.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Militia Order.

NIAGARA, Nov. 4th, 1812.

The 2d York Regiment of Militia will move from the church early to-morrow morning and occupy Mr. Howell's house in the town of Niagara.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 5th November, 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe observes with great regret that the names of Captain Chisholm, commanding the flank company York Militia, and of Lieutenant Ball of the militia artillery, are omitted by His Excellency Sir George Prevost in noticing the action of the 13th October at Queenston, in which those officers distinguished

themselves. In the hurry of writing the first despatch to Sir George Prevost their names may have been omitted, no particular report of the occurrences of the early part of the day being then in Major-General Sheaffe's possession, but such a report accompanied the second despatch, in which full justice was done to the gallantry and good conduct of both those officers.

No. 2. Until further orders the hour of guard mounting will be nine o'clock. The troops are expected to have breakfast previous to going on guard.

No. 3. Returns and descriptions are to be sent in as soon as practicable by the proper officer of all public stores, buildings, &c., in their charge, and the persons employed in each department, stating by what authority: commanding officers of districts and heads of departments are particularly desired to accelerate the execution of this order, and they will please to furnish the Major-General with all such information as they may deem beneficial to His Majesty's service.

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Militia General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 5th NOV., 1812.

It being indispensably necessary for the defence and security of this frontier that there should be an augmentation of the number of men attached to the artillery, that in case of need there may be sufficient for the service of the batteries and the field train, His Honor the President is pleased to direct that a proportion of one-tenth of the companies of militia of Fort George and second division be attached to Captain Powell's company of Militia Artillery and trained under the direction of Captain Holcroft to the use of garrison and field guns. They are to return their small arms and to be ready at all times to act with them. During their training and whilst they remain liable to serve with the artillery, they are to be free from every other duty, and will receive the extra six pence a day.

Captain Cameron's company having already furnished its quota by volunteers, is to be exempted from the operation of this order.

Captains of companies will, as early as practicable, report the number of their men who volunteer for this service, and if it should

not amount to the number required, the remainder are to be drawn by ballot.

ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjt.-Genl. Militia, U. C.

Garrison Orders.

YORK, 5th Nov., 1812.

The officer in command thinks it necessary to enjoin the utmost vigilance, both by day and by night, on the part of every officer and soldier in the garrison, whether on or off duty. It is expected from the preparations already made, and which will be further completed, that the means we possess will be adequate not only to resist but to defeat any attempt the enemy may make on this post. On the firing of the carronade at the Telegraph the whole garrison will immediately get under arms.

General Dearborn to General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, November 6, 1900.

SIR,—Your letter of the 30th was duly received. I have sent on an additional supply of cartridges and stockings. I trust the Pennsylvania Militia have joined you. I have sent Colonel Macomb with upwards of four hundred men to co-operate with Commodore Chauncey, who has informed me that he shall be ready on the 15th instant to look for and attack the British force on Lake Ontario, and probably attack Kingston if I should send him a body of troops that he could rely on to aid him. If he should succeed I have requested him to send a part of his force to Niagara as soon as practicable. I hope you will be ready to strike as soon as he will. A movement will probably be made by that time towards Montreal, and at the same time I trust General Harrison will be in operation at Detroit. The campaign may still be closed with success. I shall set off this day for Lake Champlain. If you succeed at Niagara, York and Kingston will demand your early attention. That you may succeed and cover yourself and the troops under your command with glory, is the ardent wish of your friend and humble servant.

Major-General Sheaffe to Colonel Talbot.

FORT GEORGE, 7th Nov., 1812.

(An Extract.)

Your letter from Dover Mills has been received. We have few

if any arms to spare. If any can be mustered they shall be forwarded with ammunition. There being some rifles in store I have authorized Lieut. Brigham to form a company of riflemen.

The *Simcoe* is just arrived with clothing and bedding. The *Moira* approaches with other stores for the militia, &c., &c.

Six companies of the Glengarry levy are expected at Kingston: two come here, one to York; two of the 49th also come here.

The *Simcoe* brings a report of a fleet with several regiments in the river [St. Lawrence.] The Quartermaster General is in the *Moira*. He brings money. C[aptain] Glegg and Mr. Brock are here. They go to York to-day. Brock proceeds by boat to Kingston. Glegg comes back to go by water to join Sir G[eorge] P[revost] as extra [aide-de-camp.] C[aptain] Fulton has been sent home with despatches. I have some intention of going to York. I wait for the coming in of the *Moira*. Major-General Shaw, who acts now only as Adjutant-General, will send you further information.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, Nov. 7th, 1812.

Major-General Shaw's services being essentially necessary as Adjutant-General of the militia he has been pleased to relinquish the command of the First Division. In accepting it as Colonel in the militia his zeal for His Majesty's service was no less manifested than has been his ability to promote it during the period which he held it.

Major O. Ormsby of the 49th Regiment is appointed to command the First Division until further orders.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,
B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 8th November, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, inspecting field officer, will inspect the different corps and detachments of militia stationed at Fort George and dependencies on the parade ground to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Commanding officers of corps and detachments will furnish

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp with the returns of their strength, &c., agreeable to the order of the 3rd November, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Major-General Sheafte to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, 8th November, 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here last night, having come over to execute some Provincial business, and I propose returning to-night to Fort George. I found Doctor Richmond here, and was honored by him with Your Excellency's despatch of the 27th of October. It mortifies me extremely that my conduct in regard to the prisoners and in allowing Brigadier-General Wadsworth to go on his parole with the rest of the militia is not approved by Your Excellency. In adopting it I was encouraged by motives of duty, conceiving that it would be productive of public benefit. A similar consideration influenced me in acceding to the armistice, which I shall terminate as soon as it shall appear to me to cease to operate in our favor to such an extent as to justify it.

The *Moira*, with Colonel Nichol on board, and the *Simcoe*, arrived yesterday at Fort George with stores of various kinds. Every exertion was making for landing them speedily, and I gave directions for the immediate distribution of those articles which the militia particularly require.

The moment that an officer of the artillery arrives at Fort George, Lieutenant King shall be ordered to this post that his services may be devoted to the marine department.

I have directed an enquiry to be made into our naval resources and reports to be made thereon preparatory to such exertions as Your Excellency may think proper to authorize in order to counteract the efforts of the enemy and to preserve the ascendency of our marine. Captain Earle reports in a letter to Lieut.-Colonel Myers that they are building "a large vessel and several gunboats" at Sackett's Harbor. Elsewhere on this lake as well as Lake Erie similar exertions may be expected on the part of the enemy.

General Smyth to General Dearborn.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Nov. 9th, 1812.

SIR,—Colonel McFeely arrived on the 1st instant with about one hundred and eighty men of the 22nd. Captain Archer's company of artillery arrived on the 4th instant, and to-day Colonel

Brown, with one hundred and ninety infantry, and also the light artillery, arrived.

I have sent an officer to meet the Pennsylvanians. He had gone as far as Erie when I last heard of him, without meeting them. They are volunteers to supply that State's quota of militia. Can they be forced to cross the line? I am told they will refuse.

One of the aids of the Governor of New York has been at Schlosser in the capacity of the Deputy-Adjutant General, making a new organization of the militia there. I caused them to encamp by themselves—not a soldier within ten miles of them. One hundred of them deserted the next night after the Governor's aid left them.

What most disturbs me is the ill health of the troops. The measles has affected many, and the want of salt meat, of ovens, and exposure to cold, until lately without winter clothing, has produced dysenteries and other diseases. Our hospitals are filled with sick and wounded, and new cases of disease are occurring daily.

Colonel Winder of the 14th is coming to this place from Niagara. I shall trust the defence of it to two companies of artillery and Lieut.-Colonel McFeely's corps of infantry, which will march to-morrow.

The contractors have failed to supply, and I have ordered purchases of provisions for Fort Niagara.

Between the 20th and the 30th instant I shall be ready to cross the river with about thirteen hundred regular infantry, three hundred artillery, six hundred volunteers and seventy cavalry, (if you will allow me Captain Morgan's troop.) In this estimate is not included the Pennsylvania and New York militia.

Two regiments will proceed on to-morrow to commence building huts. If we cannot stay on the other side, we shall have a shelter ready for the sick and wounded.

P. S.—A district paymaster with money is necessary. The volunteers cannot be retained in service unless paid.

Lieutenant Gansevoort of the artillery, who states he was appointed district paymaster, was ordered to Albany more than three weeks since to procure funds. I have heard that he is sick. Colonel Brown's regiment mutinied at Manlius on account of their pay.

In General Smyth's Letter to General Dearborn of November 9th, 1812.

General Smyth conceives the following facts should be known and considered by the Secretary of War:

1. That the 5th Regiment at Utica, on its march, did mutiny for want of their pay.

2. That the 23rd Regiment at Manlius did mutiny on account of their pay, which is still due.

3. That a company of volunteers at Buffalo did mutiny on account of their pay and clothing.

4. That the captain of another volunteer company, the best in the service, has stated that he believes his men will not cross into Canada without their pay and allowance for clothing.

5. That the Deputy-Quartermaster General states himself to be without money.

6. That there is no distinct paymaster at Niagara supplied with money.

7. That Colonel Winder, commanding at Fort Niagara, reports, "We are literally starving on this end of the line, for bread." In consequence of which the Deputy-Quartermaster has been ordered to purchase provisions.

8. That eighteen hundred Pennsylvania volunteers will arrive next week.

9. That General Smyth will be ready in fifteen days to cross into Canada.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, November 9th, 1812.

It having been reported that soldiers when on fatigue are in the habit of giving over their allowance of spirits to each other, by which means several of the men had been frequently intoxicated, the Major-General positively forbids a further continuance of this baneful practice, and is pleased to direct that whenever a man refuses his allowance of spirits it might be retained and returned into store for the public service. Officers whose duty it is are held responsible for the faithful observance of this order.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

Proclamation.

By His Honor Roger Hale Sheaffe, Esquire, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces within the same, &c., &c., &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas divers persons residing within the limits of this Province claim to be exempt from military service on the pretence of being citizens of the United States of America, I have thought proper, by and with the advice of His Majesty's executive council for the affairs of the Province, to direct and require that all such persons residing within the Western, London and Niagara Districts to forthwith report themselves to the board appointed at Niagara to examine into such claims, and that all such persons residing in the Midland, Johnstown and Eastern Districts do report themselves to the board appointed at Kingston, and all such persons residing in the Home and Newcastle Districts do in like manner report themselves to the board appointed at York, for the same purpose, in order that if recognized to be citizens of the United States of America they may be furnished with proper passports to leave the Province. And it is hereby made known that every citizen of the United States of America in this Province who shall not before the first day of January, 1813, have reported himself to one of the said boards shall be taken to be an alien enemy, and shall be liable to be treated as a prisoner of war or as a spy, as circumstances may dictate.

Given under my hand and seal at York this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of His Majesty's reign of the fifty-third.

ROGER HALE SHEAFFE,
President, &c.

General Smyth's Speech to the Indians.

Brothers:—

I thank you for the tender of your services in the *defence* of the United States which you have made, and in their name accept them in case the troops and the Indians of the British King should invade the United States, which I expect they will not dare to attempt.

It is the desire of Your Great Father the President that you should take no part in the war between the United States and Great Britain, but remain at peace and take care of your wives and children.

The British nation is not able to maintain the contest against the United States on this great island without help. They ask the Indians for help, who have given it and will be ruined by doing so.

We are able to beat the British without help, and although we understand that you are willing to help us if we ask it, yet we do

not ask it. The quarrel is ours, not yours, and we will fight our own battles.

Brothers! hold fast the chain of friendship between you and the United States, who are great, powerful, just and good, and will vanquish all their enemies and protect all their friends.

J. W. Livingstone to Governor Tompkins.

GENEVA, November 9th, 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here yesterday and now have the honor to report the result of my inspection of the militia at Schlosser. On the day of your departure from Buffalo I waited on General Smyth and requested his orders on the subject, which he gave me, confining my powers to the organization of General Miller's brigade. He informed me that he considered the volunteers as troops of the United States, and I concluded from this observation that I had nothing to do with their inspection, &c. I proceeded on Friday to Schlosser and presented the order to General Miller, and directed muster rolls to be made out. On Sunday I inspected the brigade. There were 420 under arms, and I was informed the force consisted of about 750. This number being much smaller than I had calculated on, I issued an order to organize them into one regiment of infantry, consisting of ten companies, and one battalion of riflemen of three companies. The infantry I directed to be under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin, and the riflemen under Major Gaylord, the whole force subject to Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin. The remainder of the officers I discharged and transferred their men to Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin's command, directing him to apportion them equally in the different companies. My orders relating thereto being with my baggage which has not arrived, prevents my forwarding them herewith. In this arrangement I have retained such officers in service as I was told will not shrink from danger: the others perhaps are better away as they would only tend to dispirit the men. I find the brigade totally undisciplined and in a state of insubordination. On the evening preceding the day of inspection eighty stacked their arms and deserted. I was informed of it the day following. No measures were taken by the General to bring them back. I advised Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin if such a case occurred again, and they refused to return, to use the powers the law gave and compel them to obey by force. After waiting two days I found it impossible to obtain muster rolls or any other returns, although I called on the General and his Brigade-Major to furnish them. Indeed, the Major of Brigade seemed to know less of his brigade

than any person at the camp. Thus circumstanced, I returned to Buffalo. They promised to forward them, but they have not yet been received. This places it out of my power to give you such a return as ought to be made. I reported accordingly to General Smyth. The arms are in good order, though not kept clean. I directed Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin to have such as were not wanted to be packed and forwarded to Quartermaster-General Porter. I considered they would be better in his hands than scattered about. Many of the men were sick and the list increasing. I attributed this in some measure to the want of salt pork, which the contractor ought to be obliged to furnish. The constant diet of fresh meat, and that fried, which is the usual mode of cooking, cannot but be the means of destroying many valuable men. This branch of supply requires to be remedied and that without delay. At Schlosser they report about seventy sick. General Smyth informed me he had many indisposed in his camp. The season becoming very inclement, the men complain much for the want of barracks. I did not perceive any preparation for such an arrangement. Whether General Smyth intends crossing I know not. He was rather silent on that subject. However, if he thinks it possible to hold possession he will no doubt attempt it. The Pennsylvania Militia have not arrived. I fear they feel but little disposition to join, by being so tardy.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 250-3. New York State Library.)

From a Memorandum Book of Captain Abraham A. Rapelje, Norfolk Militia, in Possession of Captain J. G. Spain.

Simon Mabee deserted, the first day's march from Dover to Sugar Loaf. James Colton, the second day. Jacob Shoaf left sick at the Grand River, third day's march.

Simon Mabee returned and joined the company at Sugar Loaf, November 4th, 1812.

Muster roll of the 1st Flank Company, 2nd Regiment, Norfolk Militia:

A. A. Rapelje, Captain.
Titus Williams, Lieutenant.
Isaac Gilbert, Ensign.
Henry Medcalf,
Benj. Williams, } Sergeants.
Benj. Haviland,
1 John Mathews.
2 Richard Drake.

3 John Butler.
4 Silas Messenger.
5 Philip Mathews (dead.)
6 Reuben Alward.
7 David Conrad.
8 Jacob Berdan.
9 John Wyckoff (dead.)
10 Mathias Woodley.
11 Alexander Lemon.
12 Elijah Williams.
13 Pinkney Mabee.
14 Leon Chivic.
15 Cornelius Sleight.
16 James McQueen.
17 Abram Messercar.
18 Israel R. Disbrow.
19 Joseph Robier.
20 Dan Millard.
21 Evi Adams (certified dead.)
22 Job Messercar.
23 George Sergent.
24 Samuel Gilmore.
25 Albert Berdan.
26 James Lemon.
27 Charles Harmon.
28 John Conrad.
29 Christian Dedrick.
30 Samuel McLean.
31 John Dutcher.
32 George Zobiskie.
33 Daniel Berdan.
34 Richard Marr.
35 Michael Cruson.
36 John Bonnet (drummer.)
37 Simon Mabee.
38 Samuel Troup.
John Winance.

SUGAR LOAF, NOV. 5TH, 1812.

Daniel and Jacob Berdan deserted and brought back by a sergeant and file of men from Captain McCall's company from the Grand River, and acquitted on trial by making such concessions as satisfied the officers present.

NOVEMBER 15TH, 1812.

Deserted from the company under my command at Sugar Loaf: Samuel McLean, John Dutcher, Daniel Berdan and Richard Marr.

Silas Messenger, Israel R. Disbrow and Simon Mabee obtained leave to go home on furlough for eight days, commencing on 16th November, 1812.

Dan Millard and Cornelius Slaght have permission to go home on furlough for fourteen days, commencing 19th Nov., 1812.

Samuel Troup joined the company at Sugar Loaf, November 19th, 1812.

John Bonnet obtained leave to go home on furlough for five days, November 18th, 1812.

Morning returns made from the 31st October, 1812, at Sugar Loaf, to headquarters at Fort Erie, up to 3rd Nov., 1812—42 men.

Received November 2nd, 1812, one bbl. flour, the property of Mr. Maclem, Chippawa, at Sugar Loaf Mills.

A. A. RAPELJE, Captain.

3rd—Beef issued, two days rations for 114 men, including Captain Bostwick's and Lieut. Brigham's company.

Received 5th November, one bbl. flour for the use of a detachment of men stationed at Sugar Loaf, the property of Mr. Maclem, now at Chippawa.

A. A. RAPELJE, Captain.

Received 7th November, 1812, one bbl. flour for the use of a detachment of men at Sugar Loaf, the property of Mr. Maclem, Chippawa.

A. A. RAPELJE, Captain.

Morning report made from the 4th November up to the 9th inclusive, to headquarters at Fort Erie, 43 men, including officers.

Morning report made from the 10th November up to the 19th inclusive, 36 men, including officers.

General Smyth's Proclamation.

TO THE MEN OF NEW YORK.

For many years you have seen your country oppressed with numerous wrongs. Your Government, although above all others devoted to peace, have been forced to draw the sword and rely for redress of injuries on the valor of the American people.

That valor has been conspicuous; but the nation has been unfortunate in the choice of some of those who directed it. One army has been disgracefully surrendered and lost. Another has been sacrificed by a precipitate attempt to pass it over at the strong-

est point of the enemy's lines, with most incompetent means. The cause of these miscarriages is apparent. The commanders were popular men, "destitute alike of theory and experience" in the art of war.

In a few days the troops under my command will plant the American standard in Canada. They are men accustomed to obedience, silence and steadiness. They will conquer or they will die.

Will you stand with your arms folded and look on this interesting struggle? Are you not related to the men who fought at Burlington and Saratoga? Has the race degenerated? Or have you, under the baneful influence of contending factions, forgotten your country? Must I turn from you and ask the men of the Six Nations to support the Government of the United States? Shall I imitate the officers of the British King and suffer our ungathered laurels to be tarnished with ruthless deeds? Shame, where is thy blush? No! where I command, the vanquished and the peaceful man, the child, the maid, and the matron shall be secure from wrong. If we conquer, we will "conquer but to save."

Men of New York!

The present is the hour of renown. Have you not a wish for fame? Would you not choose to be one of those who, imitating the heroes whom Montgomery led, have, in spite of the seasons, visited the tomb of the chief and conquered the country where he lies? Yes, you desire your share of fame. Then seize the present moment: if you do not, you will regret it and say: "The valiant have bled in vain, the friends of my country fell and I was not there."

Advance, then, to our aid. I will wait for you a few days. I cannot give you the day of my departure, but come on. Come in companies, half companies, pairs or singly. I will organize you for a short tour. Ride to this place if the distance is far and send back your horses. But remember that every man who accompanies us places himself under my command and shall submit to the salutary restraints of discipline.

ALEX. SMYTH, Brigade-General.

Camp near Buffalo, Nov. 10, 1812.

Answer of the Men of New York, Inhabiting the Western District.

General, we have seen your proclamation. We have seen this country not many years ago the sole habitation of the beasts of the forest and their prowling enemy. We see it the habitation of many thousand souls, rich in all the necessaries and in many of the com-

forts of life. Till the day that the sound of war burst on our ear from the Capitol at Washington we scarcely experienced one moment of anxiety for the safety of our persons and property.

The clamor of avaricious traders and of factious office seekers trouble not our quiet. It reached us but at the period of the elections, and it was then but like a blast of wind on our lakes, variegating but for a moment the placid uniformity of the surface.

Why should our swords be drawn in redress of injuries which we have never felt, or which if they exist are beyond our reach? Why appeal to our valor for the destruction of our own happiness or that of others?

We are the descendants of the men that fought at Bennington and at Saratoga. The labors of the field are proof alike against degeneracy and the rage of contending factions. You, General, have been more exposed to their influence. The men who fought at Bennington and Saratoga fought for the liberties of their county. Foreign mercenaries had set foot upon the soil which their hands had redeemed from the desert and rendered fertile; they had entered the sanctuaries of their wives and children. Our fathers fought and conquered. You, General, who are taking the place of these mercenaries, cannot appeal to us.

The renown which you seek is not our renown. It is the renown of Europe not of America. The wrath of God precedes it, and desolation follows in its footsteps. It delights in blood and in fields strewn with carnage, in the tears of the widow and the complainings of the orphan perishing of want and disease. This is your glory. Ours has upon it the primeval blessing of the Almighty; our victories are victories over the unproductive face of nature; our renown is in fertile fields, in peaceful homes and numerous and happy families.

Go, General, if you will. Should you ever reach the walls of Quebec, the shade of Montgomery will reproach you for not having profited by his example, and when you fall the men of New York will lament that folly has found new victims.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 134.)

Treaty for Release of Prisoners.

Treaty for the release of prisoners of war upon their parole and for their eventual exchange, concluded at Whitehall, U. S., 12th November, 1812, between Major-General Dearborn, commander of the forces of the United States in the Northern Department, and Robt. McDouall, Esq., Captain of the 8th or King's Regiment of

Infantry and aide-de-camp to the Governor-in-Chief of the Canadas, duly authorized by His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir Geo. Prevost.

ARTICLE 1ST.

The American prisoners of war at present in Canada, are to be embarked for Boston with as much expedition as circumstances will admit, on their parole not to carry arms or engage in active hostility or perform any military service whatever until regularly exchanged.

None of the troops are to be suffered to remain upon the frontier or with any corps engaged on actual service.

ARTICLE 2ND.

Prisoners of war who may be prevented by sickness from returning to their country, will be sent, when sufficiently recovered, by the post of St. Johns, a receipt for the men by name being given by the officer at the advance post who receives them.

ARTICLE 3RD.

The detachment of Canadian *voyageurs* and all British prisoners of war of whatever description, belonging to the British forces in Canada, are to be immediately sent upon their parole to the nearest advanced post towards St. Johns, apprising the commandant of the circumstances, who will give a receipt for the same.

They will, of course, be subject to the same restrictions as those mentioned in the first article.

ARTICLE 4TH.

Should the fortunes of war hereafter place British prisoners, whether regulars or militia, in the power of the American Government, they are immediately to be sent back to the nearest British post, and an equal number of American prisoners are in consequence to be released and exonerated from their parole. As far as may be practicable, all exchanges to be kept distinct: troops of the line for regulars, embodied militia for the militia taken in arms, and other corps according to their respective engagements and organization.

ARTICLE 5TH.

In the event of the prisoners of war of either country who are on parole being permitted to reside at their respective homes, the utmost precaution to be taken by both Governments in impressing upon their minds the serious consequences which must result to them should they inconsiderately engage in any corps or regiment, or perform any military duty, until it is officially announced to them that they are regularly exchanged and released from their parole, and in order that no mistake may arise involving such seri-

ous consequences, whenever any men are proposed to be exchanged, correct authenticated lists of the individuals are to be interchanged between the two Governments, expressly mentioning the name and corps of each soldier thus rendered eligible again to bear arms in the service of his country.

ARTICLE 6TH.

Should the British Government have omitted to take lists of the militia released upon their parole at Detroit and Queenston, the American Government is to furnish as correct lists as can be procured in order to simplify and facilitate their exchange when circumstances render it practicable.

ARTICLE 7TH.

Such British prisoners of war as are or may be taken in Upper Canada are to be sent to the nearest military post in that country instead of St. Johns.

H. DEARBORN,
Major-General.
RT. MCDOUALL,
Captain King's Regiment,
A. D. C. to Lieut.-General Sir George Prevost.

Headquarters, Montreal,
24th Nov., 1812.

Ratified,
GEORGE PREVOST,
Com. of the Forces.

(Canadian Archives, C. 690, p. 32.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 5th Nov., 1812.

Lieutenant B. Brewster Brigham of the 1st Oxford Regiment of Militia is authorized to form a company of riflemen.

By order of His Honor Major-General Sheaffe.

N. COFFIN,
Ens. A. D. C.

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 6th Nov., 1812.

SIR,—As I have reason to believe that the *Royal George*, *Prince Regent* and *Duke of Gloucester* have gone up the lake with troops

to reinforce Fort George, and as I have reason to believe that other troops are waiting at Kingston for their return, destined for the same post, I have determined to proceed with the force I have ready in quest of the enemy. My present intention is to take a position on the Canada shore near some small islands called the False Ducks, where the enemy are obliged to pass and where I will wait their return to Kingston. If I should succeed in my enterprise, (which I have little doubt of,) I shall make an attack upon Kingston for the purpose of destroying the guns and public stores at that station.

I shall proceed for my station this evening or to-morrow with the following vessels, to wit: Brig *Oneida* and schooners *Hamilton, Governor Tompkins, Conquest, Growler, Julia* and *Pert*, mounting altogether 40 guns of different calibres, and 430 men including marines.

With this force I hope to give a good account of the enemy, although he is more than double our force in guns and men. His consists of the following vessels, as near as I can ascertain, to wit: The ship *Royal George*, 26. guns, 260 men; ship *Earl Moira*, 18 guns, 200 men; schooners *Prince Regent*, 18 guns, 150 men; *Duke of Gloucester*, 14 guns, 80 men, *Toronto*, 14 guns, 80 men; *Governor Simcoe*, 12 guns, 70 men, *Seneca*, 4 guns, 40 men, making a grand total of 108 guns and 890 men.

The officers and men under my command are extremely anxious to meet the enemy. We cannot command success but we will endeavor to deserve it.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., pp. 111-2.)

Indian Speech at Council of Condolence.

At a general Council of Condolence held at Council House, Fort George, 6th November, 1812, with the Six Nations, Hurons, Chippewas, Potawatomies, &c. Present:—

William Claus, Esquire, Deputy-Supt. General.

Captain Norton,

Captain J. B. Rousseaux.

And several other officers of the Indian Department.

Kodeaneyonte, Little Cayuga, chief speaker.

BROTHER,—The Americans have long threatened to strike us, and in the beginning of the summer they declared war against us and lately they commenced hostilities by invading the country at Queenston. In this contest which, with the help of God, terminated

in our favor, your much lamented commander, General Brock, his aide-de-camp, Colonel Macdonell, and several warriors have fallen.

BROTHER,—We, therefore, now seeing you darkened with grief, your eyes dim with tears and your throat stopped with the force of your affliction, with these strings of wampum we wipe away your tears, that you may view clearly the surrounding objects. We clear the passage in your throats that you may have free utterance for your thoughts, and we wipe clear from blood the place of your abode, that you may sit there in comfort without having renewed the remembrance of your loss by the remaining stains of blood.

Eight strings white wampum.

BROTHER,—That the remains of your late beloved friend and commander, General Brock, shall receive no injury we cover it with this belt of wampum, which we do from the grateful sensations which his friendship towards us continually inspired us with, as also in conformity to the customs of our ancestors, and we therefore now express with the unanimous voice of the chiefs and warriors of our respective bands the great respect in which we hold his memory, and the sorrow and deep regret with which his loss has filled our hearts, although he has taken his departure for a better abode, where his many virtues will be rewarded by the great dispenser of good, who has led us on the road to victory.

A large white belt.

BROTHER,—We now address the successor of our departed friend, to express the confidence we feel, that his heart is warmed with similar sentiments of affection and regard to us. We also assure him of our readiness to support him to the last, and therefore take the liberty to exhort him to speak strong to all his people to co-operate with vigor, and trusting in the powerful arm of God not to doubt of victory. Although our numbers are small, yet counting Him on our side who ever decides on the day of battle, we look for victory whenever we shall come in contact with the enemy.

(Canadian Archives, C. 256, p. 194.)

Colonel Winder to General Smyth.

FORT NIAGARA, Nov. 7th, 1812.

SIR,—I wrote you yesterday at considerable length by Quarter-master Allison. Major Armistead deems it necessary to go to Black Rock to present you his ideas of this place in a military point of view.

The Major apprehends that there is risk of an enterprise against this place from the other side, and that there is danger of

its succeeding if attempted when the infantry are withdrawn. My opinion, you will recollect, has been that the enemy would not attempt anything against this end of the line. I am still of that opinion. How far he might succeed if he attempted it would depend upon the force he employed and the courage and firmness of the resistance here. My practical knowledge of the defence of fortified places does not enable me to form an opinion upon the subject, which would be entitled to much weight. Major Armistead is informed of my views of this place as detailed in my letter of the 17th October, but his views are derived more probably from his professional knowledge and skill than from general considerations.

My own opinion is that a successful effort on any part of the line will be a protection to this place equal to that of any force which might be thrown in here, because I believe the enemy, so far from thinking of attacking us, are exerting every nerve to evade a blow which they dread from us.

Three vessels are just arriving; one was here before. It is not yet perceived that they bring any force.

We are literally starving on this end of the line for bread, and unless the supply is more abundant, the contractors will be answerable for consequences more fatal to their country than treason.

S. P. Jarvis' Collection, Toronto Public Library.

BROWN'S POINT, 8th November, 1812.

MY DEAR PARENTS,—It is some time since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you, altho' the vessels have repeatedly been at York. You complain much of my not being punctual, but I think that there is as little regard to punctuality on your side as mine. Several vessels have escaped without my writing, but the distance I am stationed from Niagara, and their short delay in general at that place, is an apology. Yesterday a boat loaded with salt (and a medicine chest) drifted to our side. It appears that the men on board were not acquainted with the channel—left the boat in possession of one man to enquire or search for it—who, in the meantime got intoxicated, and allowed the boat to drift over; it contained 50 barrels. The Americans have built a great number of boats of different kinds. It is greatly apprehended that their intention is to cut out the *Queen Charlotte*, in which they will probably succeed. They have taken up the guns out of the water which were on board the *Adams* or *Detroit* and mounted them. They have altogether nine pieces of cannon mounted opposite Fort Erie

or at Black Rock. They seem determined to have command of the lakes. The keel of a 36-gun ship is laid at Sackett's Harbor, and they are working very rapidly to have her ready by the spring.

John Robinson and Mr. Jarvis have arrived from Kingston. We are not likely to have any troops from Quebec this season, and an attack at Kingston is expected. It is said that the armistice will soon be at an end.

I am afraid that I shall not be able now to get my letter on board; she is out in the stream with her sails unfurled, visible from here.

Tell Archy his calf skin is made up. I hope he is getting better. All well here.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL JARVIS.

Lieut.-Colonel Cecil Bisshopp to Colonel Wm. Claus.

NIAGARA, Nov. 10th, 1812.

SIR,—Supplies of clothing for the militia having arrived, you will order the quartermasters of the detachments under your command to attend on Thursday, the 12th instant, to receive such portion of such articles as may be necessary to complete the equipment of your flank companies, after which clothing, as far as it can be done, will be issued to the remainder of your corps. The quartermaster will have prepared separate rations for the flank companies.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, CHAMPLAIN,
Nov. 10th, 1812.

The indisposition of Brigadier-General Bloomfield renders it expedient for Major-General Dearborn to take the immediate command of the troops on Lake Champlain and its vicinity, and the General embraces the earliest opportunity to express his confidence in the troops composing the Army of the North. Their bravery and patriotism will supply any deficiency in military discipline and tactics, which time and experience will render perfect. In any movement towards the enemy the most rigid attention to orders will be required, as well as a fixed determination in every individual of the army not to retreat or give ground before the enemy. Should any one be so lost to a sense of honor and military duty and the pride of the American character as to be guilty of flight or dis-

orderly conduct in time of action, he must expect no relaxation in the law martial. Every species of plunder or abuse of the inhabitants within the territory of the United States or Canada is forbidden on pain of death.

By order,
THOS. BIDDLE, Capt. 2nd U. S. Artillery,
Acting Adjutant-General.

(From The War, New York, 5th December, 1812. File in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)

Militia General Order.

FORT GEORGE, November 11th, 1812.

A return is to be sent in to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop as soon as possible of the names of such men in the 4th Division as are willing to be employed as wood-cutters.

They are to be exempted from all other duty, but are to sleep in their quarters every night.

The Adjutant of the 1st Regiment to attend every day at one o'clock P. M. at the Government House, to receive orders, and he will give them out to the other regiments at such hours as Colonel Claus shall appoint. A requisition to be made by each regiment of the 4th Division of the proportion of planks, boards and nails required to make tables and forms for the barrack rooms.

By order,
LIEUT.-COLONEL BISSHOPP,
J. BARNARD,
Lieut. 41st Regiment.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday Nov. 11, [sic] 1812.)

MEADVILLE TROOPS.

The following is a list of the field officers elected by the detachment of Pennsylvania Volunteers soon expected at Buffalo:

Brigadier General—Adamson Tannehill.

1st Regiment of Infantry—Colonel, Jeremiah Snyder; 1st Major, James Warner; 2nd Major, John Scott.

2nd Regiment of Infantry—Colonel, John Purviance; 1st Major, James Harriott; 2nd Major, Edward Wright.

1st Regiment of Riflemen—Colonel, Jared Erwin; 1st Major, James McAfee; 2nd Major, James McDowell.

2nd Regiment of Riflemen—Colonel, Wm. Piper; 1st Major, Henry Beaver; 2nd Major, John McGerry.

FIFTY BARRELS OF SALT GONE OVER TO THE BRITISH.

A few nights since a boat load of salt came up Niagara River, passed Black Rock and run aground off Buffalo Creek, and after a family had been landed from the boat, the owner left a man on board to take care of the boat. But no sooner had the owner got handsomely into this village when the man in the boat hoisted sail and made for Fort Erie, at which place he arrived in safety.

Flags have been sent over to demand a restoration of the salt, but we understand the crafty Canadians preferred keeping it, as salt is worth to them 25 dollars per barrel.

MEADVILLE TROOPS.

Governor Snyder's 2000 troops from Pennsylvania, by order of the Adjutant-General of that State, were to rendezvous at Meadville on the 25th September last, elect their officers and proceed without delay to this place. It is now the 11th of November and they have not yet arrived, the distance being 130 miles. The last accounts received are, that part of them were at Erie and the remainder had not come on to that place. An express, we understand, has been sent on to the commander in order to expedite their movements, which in this part of the country are considered very tardy. Sixty baggage waggons are said to accompany them.

Since our last, several fine pieces of heavy artillery and a detachment of 100 flying artillery have arrived on the lines.

In the hospital in this village, since the 28th October, about 20 soldiers have died, belonging to the army of General Smyth. There are not far from 100 sick, but few of them, however, are considered dangerous.

Colonel John Vincent to Major-General Sheaffe.

KINGSTON, 11th November, 1812.

SIR,—I sent off an express yesterday to the commanding officer at York, that some very suspicious vessels had appeared and were making for the Bay of Quinte. I had reason to suppose that a landing was attempted. I since find that it was the American brig the *Oneida* and six small vessels, with one or two heavy guns each, 24 and 32 pounders. From their actions I must suppose their visit was only intended to cut out the *Royal George*. The Commodore did not consider his force sufficient as a match for the fleet against him, and placed his vessel between our batteries. At 2 o'clock yesterday they passed this post, exchanging shots with our batteries and several broadsides with the *Royal George* until it was dark.

They returned for the night to the 4 Mile Point, and there anchored. This morning they left us, we suppose to return into port.

It is to be lamented that the guns we have here are only 9-pounders, and the enemy kept at too great a distance, still a few shot struck them, and notwithstanding the whole of their fire was directed at the *Royal George*, she suffered but little—one man killed, a 32-pounder shot lodged in her bottom and her rigging much cut.

On this late business I had no arms to give out of store if an enemy had landed: 230 men came in as volunteers to join the militia.

The *Simcoe* is reported to have just come in. She met the American fleet, which chased her for some time, and got in safe. I suspect this fleet will return to Sackett's Harbor without having anything to boast of.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

From the New York Statesman, 4th December, 1812.

BUFFALO, November 12, 1812.

To the Men of Ontario and Genesee:

FELLOW CITIZENS,—I transmit to you the eloquent appeal of General Smyth, an able and experienced officer, to the patriotism of the State of New York. It speaks to the heart of every man who is not lost to the honor and interest of his country.

He has at this place a powerful army under strict discipline, in high spirits and eager for the contest. With this army he can and will, in the course of a few days, occupy all the British fortresses on the Niagara river, the possession of which will give him the command of the Upper Province. Humanity, however, suggests that this conquest should be achieved with the least possible sacrifice. It is for the purpose of obtaining a force that will overawe opposition and save the effusion of blood that he now asks your aid and co-operation.

The crisis is an all-important one to us and demands our best exertions. I shall accompany General Smyth to Canada, and will you not join your fortunes to mine and follow him? Come on, then, and bring with you all the volunteers you can collect. Let them provide themselves with warm clothing and blankets, and they shall be supplied with arms and ammunition on their arrival at this place.

A vigorous campaign of one month will relieve your brethren on this frontier from the sufferings which always fall so heavily on

those who have the misfortune to be placed on the seat of war. It is to palsy the savage hand that is now wielding the scalping knife, restore peace to the whole of this section of the country, and redeem the tarnished reputation of the nation. Can the independent and high-minded yeomanry of Genesee and Ontario remain idle spectators of events so interesting to our beloved country?

Yours very respectfully,

PETER B. PORTER.

(From file in the New York Society Library.)

Distribution of Troops in Upper Canada, Nov. 12th, 1812.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

	Total.
YORK.	
Royal Artillery, 2 gunners	2
41st Regiment, 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 28 rank and file	33
49th Regiment, 1 sergeant, 21 rank and file	22
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 2 officers, 1 private	3
Canadian Fencibles, 1 officer, 1 private	2
	62
FORT GEORGE.	
Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 1 trumpeter, 31 gunners	33
Royal Engineers, 1 officer	1
41st Regiment, 11 officers, 28 sergeants, 15 drummers, 337 rank and file	391
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 4 officers, 5 sergeants, 2 drummers, 107 rank and file	118
Glengarry Light Infantry, 1 officer	1
	544
CHIPPAWA.	
Royal Artillery, 6 gunners	6
41st Regiment, 8 officers, 8 sergeants, 3 drummers, 252 rank and file	271
	277

LANDING (QUEENSTON.)

Royal Artillery, 7 gunners	7
41st Regiment, 1 officer, 9 rank and file	10
49th Regiment, 5 officers, 7 sergeants, 3 drummers, 160 rank and file	175
	192

FORT ERIE.

Royal Artillery, 6 gunners	6
41st Regiment, 4 rank and file	4
49th Regiment, 7 officers, 10 sergeants, 5 drummers, 230 rank and file	252
	262
Aggregate	1,275

ON ROUTE TO UPPER CANADA.

Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 13 rank and file	14
Royal Engineers, 1 officer	1
49th Regiment, 8 officers, 15 rank and file	23
	38

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1812-13.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 12th November, 1812.

Until further orders the daily morning parade states are to be discontinued, and states of the several divisions will be forwarded from the different posts every Monday and Thursday morning, those of the line addressed to the brigade-major and those of the militia to the office of Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, inspecting field officer, established at Government House. Pointed attention on the part of commanding officers is required to the accuracy of those returns, and it is to be understood that whenever anything occurs between the periods for sending in the states a particular report is to be made of it.

No. 2. Reports not having been received for the last two mornings from the main guard, Lieut.-Colonel Myers cautions officers commanding guards against similar neglect, as, should it be reported, he will notice it in a very serious manner.

It being found necessary for the supplies of the essential articles of forage, fuel and straw to employ some of the troops to thresh grain and to cut wood, the number that may be required for those purposes by the commissariat is to be furnished by the several corps. The Deputy-Commissary General or person authorized by him will apply to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster General, or in his absence to the Brigade-Major for the number of men wanted for such service, stating where they are to be employed. The rates of payment to be allowed will be hereafter notified.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 13th November, 1812.

Sergeant Thomas Cummings, 41st Regiment, is appointed to act until further orders as Garrison Sergeant and will receive an allowance of 1s. per diem army pay, commencing on the 25th Oct., 1812.

No. 2. The following corps will send in to the Brigade-Major's office without delay nominal lists of killed, wounded and missing in the action at Queenston on the 13th ultimo:

Niagara Dragoons,
Royal Artillery,
Lincoln Artillery,
41st Regiment,
49th Regiment.
1st Lincoln Militia,
2nd Lincoln flank companies,
3rd Lincoln Militia,
3rd Lincoln flank companies,
2nd York flank companies,
3rd York flank companies.

District Militia General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 13th November, 1812.

His Honor the President having observed on an inspection of the returns of several corps on this frontier that there are many absentees therefrom, and being willing in the commencement of the command that has devolved on him to give a proof of lenity and forbearance, he is pleased to direct that no proceedings shall be had against those now absent without leave who shall without delay voluntarily repair to their posts. Commanding officers of companies and of regiments are to take the necessary steps for causing

to be apprehended and sent back to their companies all those who shall persist in absenting themselves without leave.

By command,

ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjt.-General Militia.

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th Nov., 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here last evening in a gale of wind, the pilots having refused to keep the lake. On the 8th I fell in with the *Royal George* and chased her into the Bay of Quinte, where I lost sight of her in the night. In the morning of the 9th we again got sight of her lying in Kingston channel. We gave chase, and followed her into the harbor of Kingston, where we engaged her and the batteries for one hour and forty-five minutes. I had made up my mind to board her, but she was so well protected by the batteries and the wind blowing directly in, it was deemed imprudent to make the attempt at this time; the pilots also refused to take charge of the vessels.

Under these circumstances, and it being after sundown, I determined to haul off and renew the attack next morning. We beat up in good order under a heavy fire from the *Royal George* and batteries to Four Mile Point, where we anchored. It blew heavy in squalls from the westward during the night, and there was every appearance of a gale of wind. The pilot became alarmed, and I thought it most prudent to get into a place of more safety. I therefore (very reluctantly) deferred renewing the attack upon the ships and forts until a more favorable opportunity.

At 7 a. m. on the 10th I made a signal to weigh, and beat out of a very narrow channel, under a very heavy press of sail, to the open lake. At 10 we fell in with the *Governor Simcoe*, running for Kingston, and chased her into the harbor. She escaped by running over a reef of rocks under a heavy fire from the *Governor Tompkins*, the *Hamilton* and the *Julia*, which cut her up very much. All her people ran below while under the fire of these vessels. The *Hamilton* chased her into nine feet of water before she hauled off. We tacked to the southward with the intention of running to our station at the Ducks, but it coming on to blow very heavy the pilots told me that it would be unsafe to keep the lake. I bore up for this place, where I arrived last night.

In our passage through the Bay of Quinte I discovered a schooner at the village of Ernestown, which we took possession of,

but finding that she would detain us, (being then in chase of the *Royal George*,) I ordered Lieutenant Macpherson to take out her sails and rigging and burn her, which he did. We also took the schooner *Mary Hatt* from Niagara at the mouth of Kingston harbor, and took her with us to our anchorage. The next morning, finding that she could not beat through the channel with us, I ordered the sailing-master in the *Growler* to take her under convoy and run down past Kingston, anchor on the east end of Long Island and wait for a wind to come up on the east side. I was also in hopes the *Royal George* might be induced to follow for the purpose of retaking our prize, but her commander was too well aware of the consequences to leave his moorings.

We lost in this affair one man killed and three slightly wounded, with a few shot through our sails. The other vessels lost no men and received but little injury in their hulls and sails, with the exception of the *Pert*, whose gun bursted in the early part of the action and wounded her commander, (Sailing-Master Arundel,) badly, and a midshipman and three men slightly. Mr. Arundel, who refused to quit the deck although wounded, was knocked overboard in beating up to our anchorage and, I am sorry to say, was drowned.

The *Royal George* must have received very considerable injury in her hull and in men, as the gun vessels with a long 32-pounder were seen to strike her almost every shot, and it was observed that she was reinforced with men four different times during the action.

I have great pleasure in saying that the officers and men on board of every vessel behaved with the utmost coolness and are extremely anxious to meet the enemy on the open lake, and as long as I have the honor to command such officers and such men I can have no doubt of the result.

I think I can say with great propriety that we have now command of the lake, and that we can transport troops and stores to any part of it without any risk of an attack from the enemy; although the whole of his naval force was not collected at Kingston yet the force at the different batteries would more than counterbalance the vessels that were absent. It was thought by all the officers in the squadron that the enemy had more than 30 guns mounted at Kingston and from 1,000 to 1,500 men. The *Royal George*, protected by this force, was driven into the river harbor under the protection of the musketry by the *Oneida* and four small schooners fitted out as gun boats, the *Governor Tompkins* not having been able to join in the action until about sunset owing to the lightness of the winds, and the *Pert's* gun having burst the second or third shot.

We are replacing all deficiencies and I shall proceed up the lake the first wind in the hopes to fall in with the *Earl Moira* and the *Prince Regent*; at any rate I shall endeavor to prevent them from forming a junction with the *Royal George* again this winter. I shall also visit Niagara river if practicable, in order to land some guns and stores that I have taken on board for that purpose. If the enemy are still in possession of Queenston, I shall land them a few miles below. I shall have the honor of writing you more in detail upon this subject on my return, or perhaps before I leave here if the wind continue ahead.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 113-5.)

S. T. Anderson to the Secretary of the Navy.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th Nov., 1812, at night.

SIR,—Since the enclosed letter from the Commodore was written the *Growler* has returned with a prize, and in her Capt. Brock, brother to the late General of that name, with the baggage of the latter. By the prize we learned that the *Earl of Moira* was off the False Ducks, and the Commodore has put off in a snow storm in the hope of cutting her off from Kingston.

From information received from Captain Brock there is no question but Kingston is very strongly defended. He expressed surprise to find our vessels had got out of the harbor after having been in it, and says that the regiment to which he belongs is quartered there 500 strong, besides other regulars and a well appointed militia. The resistance made fully justifies this report. Be assured, Sir, that in the action of which the Commodore has given you an account the national honor has been most ably supported.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., p. 113.)

Militia General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 13th Nov., 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp's office, established at the Government House, will be open from 10 o'clock in the morning till two in the afternoon. All applications to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer, or Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster General, to be made between those hours except on urgent occasions.

A return is to be given into Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp's office of such men belonging to the different divisions willing to be employed as tailors in making clothing for the militia.

Statement of Alexander Galloway.

FORT GEORGE, 14th November, 1812.

Alexander Galloway, born at Newburg in York State, but a resident for near 20 years in this Province, having taken the oath of allegiance, states that at the request of his father he quitted this on the 4th of last May to visit him and that on his return he was refused permission by Generals Hall and Wadsworth to cross over. He consequently boarded from the last of July at a house about a mile and-a-half from Lewiston, until the 13th inst., when he made his escape to Queenston in a skiff. He reports that from his stationary manner of living he had no opportunities of acquainting himself with the enemy's intentions. Reports were very contradictory respecting his strength, some making it 2,000, others 10,000 men, but he believes their principal force to be about Buffalo. Their militia had generally quitted the lines. He thinks it probable an attack will be made this fall, but General Smyth keeps everything secret. He says that the *Oneida* and a new 22-gun ship with 32-pounders, the *Charles and Ann*, the *Ontario*, with six other vessels all armed, having 2,300 men on board, were expected from Sackett's Harbor the first fair wind. He heard it said that should no attack take place this fall the troops would return and winter in the Genesee country. The troops are sickly and great numbers of the wounded have died. Neither newspapers nor anything else now comes as usual, and the officers keep everything to themselves.

Taken by me,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Militia General Orders.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 14th Nov., 1812.

The articles of clothing provided for the use of the militia, and of which a part has recently arrived, were directed in the instructions given to Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster-General, who was employed to procure them, to be delivered out and to be charged to the militia men at the original price paid for them, but His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, taking into consideration the extraordinary wear to which the clothing properly belonging to the flank companies has been exposed, and that by their meritorious conduct they have given themselves a particular claim on the approbation and liberality not only of this Government but of the British Empire at

large, he is pleased to direct that to each man of the flank companies now present with them, or being absent who shall voluntarily and without delay return thereto, shall be issued the following articles free of expense, viz.:

One pair of grey cloth trowsers, one pair of shoes or two pairs shoepacks, and to those for whom there may not eventually be found a sufficient quantity of cloth to furnish a jacket or waistcoat some other article or articles shall be substituted without cost.

The watch coats as they are made are to be distributed among the companies generally, according to their strength. The articles to be paid for, such as flannel shirts, stockings, &c., are to be charged for at their original cost, the rate of which shall be furnished the several corps by Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster-General, to whom returns are to be sent without delay of the number present with each flank company, and statements from all the militia corps of the number wanted for the men, to be charged to them at prime cost.

The militia on this frontier are immediately to be completed with a blanket to each man, to which it is proposed to add a proportion of barrack bedding.

Neither blankets nor great coats are to be considered as the property of the man to whom they may be issued. They are public property and intended for general use, and no man is to carry from his company either of those articles unless he be employed on duty and be authorized to take them.

By order of His Honor,

MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE.

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjutant-General Militia.

Militia General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 14th Nov., 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp will inspect the militia forces of the different divisions on the following days:

3rd Division—Monday, 16th instant.

2nd Division—Tuesday, 17th instant.

1st Division—Wednesday, 18th instant.

4th Division—Friday, 20th instant, at 3 p. m.

All reports, letters, &c., during Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp's absence are to be left at his office.

J. W. Livingstone to Governor Tompkins.

GENEVA, November 14th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—I herewith forward the orders relating to General Miller's brigade. I have not yet received the returns and I doubt much whether any will be furnished. Things remain *in statu quo* at Buffalo, excepting the issuing of a proclamation by General Smyth, addressed to "the men of New York." I have not a copy or I should send it. I merely had the perusal for a moment. I hope the General will fight better than he writes, for it is the most miserable (in my humble opinion) piece of composition I ever read. However, he promises to cross and conquer or die. This is a good resolution, if well kept. Not knowing how long it may be your pleasure to detain me here, I have taken the liberty to draw on you for $100 in favor of Messrs. Th. Lathrop & Co., as I find the extravagance of the charges at Buffalo, &c., exceed my calculation.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 258-9. New York State Library.)

From the New York Statesman, 23rd November, 1812.

LETTER FROM AN AMERICAN OFFICER UNDER COMMODORE CHAUNCEY.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, Nov. 15, 1812.

On Monday about 1 o'clock we discovered the *Royal George*, and signal was made for a general chase, but alternate squalls and calms continuing we were led in hot pursuit into the very harbor of the enemy, Kingston. We followed boldly, even to the spot where he anchored under protection of the land batteries, being determined to board him, but we were prevented by the tremendous showers of shot and grape which ploughed the water everywhere around us. However, seeing our intention, the *Royal George* thought it prudent to slip or cut her cables and run further in. We beat out against a strong head wind under the fire of about 40 guns from their batteries, besides 26 of the ship *George*, and, wonderful to relate, we had only one man killed and two wounded.

I took notes during the action which I subjoin: 50 minutes after 1, set top-gallant sails: five minutes after 3, the batteries on India and Navy Points opened their fire on the leading vessel. Lieutenant Elliott of the *Conquest* pushed forward and went in in the handsomest style. He was followed by the *Julia*, Trant, *Pert*, Arundel, and *Growler*, Nix. Next came the brig bearing the Commodore's broad pennant, then the *Hamilton*, Lieut. Macpherson, and *Governor Tompkins*, Lieutenant Brown, who was far astern, having been despatched in the early part of the day on particular business.

Twelve minutes after 3 Lieutenant Elliott opened his fire; fifteen minutes after 3 *Pert, Growler* and *Julia* commenced theirs; twenty minutes after 3 the batteries opened on the brig and she sustained the principal part of the fire during the remainder of the day; twenty-two minutes after 3 signal, "engage closer," thrown out and answered by all; twenty-five minutes after 3 the *Pert's* gun burst, Arundel badly wounded, who was afterwards knocked overboard by the boom and drowned; thirty minutes after 3, Garnet killed on board the brig; forty minutes after 3 the brig opened her fire on the ship and the ship on the *Hamilton*; the fire continued with the most astonishing alacrity.

At 4 o'clock the ship *George* cut her cables and ran away farther up the bay. The squadron is now exposed to the cross fire of five batteries, of flying artillery, of the ship with springs on her cable so as to enable her to bring her guns to bear. The *Governor Tompkins* bears up into the bay and opens her fire, and the firing becomes general and very warm: showers of round and grape fell around us. Half-past 4, hauled by the wind, and began to beat out of the bay, as night was closing in and the prospect blowing weather, anchored two miles out in full sight. Heavy gales all night; continued in sight next day. The *Royal George* was too prudent to venture out.

(From File in New York Society Library.)

General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
MONTREAL, 15th Novr., 1812.

G. O.

The Commander of the Forces has been pleased to approve of the following appointments in the Indian Department in Upper Canada, at the rate of pay opposite their respective names from the 25th of October inclusive:

J. B. Rousseau, President and Captain, at 10/6 per day.
Benjamin Fairchild, Lieutenant and Interpreter, at 7/6 per day.
Peter Fairchild, Assistant Storekeeper, at 2/6 per day.
William J. Chew, Lieutenant, at 5/ per day.

George Martin, Assistant Storekeeper, at 5/ per day, and James Cooper to succeed Barnabas Kain as Indian Blacksmith, who from his long service and great age is permitted to retire upon a pension of 2/6 per day.

His Excellency has also been pleased to approve of the appointment of William Ross, gentleman, to be a commissary clerk at 7/6

sterling per day, vice J. C. Green, promoted, to take place from the second inst.

The Commander of the Forces has received from Major-General Sheaffe, but too late to notice in general order of the 21st October, an official report of the zeal and active assistance rendered in the action of the 13th of October at Queenston by Captain Swayze of the artillery drivers and by the companies of Captains Chisholm and Applegarth, who joined with the other companies of militia already noticed in gallantly supporting the flank companies of the 49th Regiment.

EDWARD BAYNES,
A. G. N. A.

Militia Order.

NIAGARA, Nov. 16, 1812.

One captain, two subalterns, and 40 rank and file of the flank companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia to parade to-morrow at one o'clock to attend the funeral of the late Lieut.-Col. B. Rousseau of the 2d York Regt. of Militia. The above party will be paraded with three rounds each of blank cartridge. All officers and men belonging to the militia off duty are requested to attend the funeral at 2 o'clock from the Indian buildings. For the above duty, Capt. J. Crooks, Lieut. Powers, Lieut. Wm. Servos.

General Smyth to the Soldiers of the Army of the Centre.

COMPANIONS IN ARMS.

The time is at hand when you will cross the streams of Niagara to conquer Canada and to secure the peace of the American frontier.

You will enter a country that is to be one of the United States. You will arrive among a people who are to become your fellow-citizens. It is not against them that we come to make war. It is against that Government which holds them as vassals.

You will make this war as little as possible distressful to the Canadian people. If they are peaceable, they are to be secure in their persons and in their property so far as our imperious necessities will allow. Private plundering is absolutely forbidden. Any soldier who quits his ranks to plunder on the field of battle will be punished in the most exemplary manner.

But your just rights as soldiers will be maintained; whatever is booty by the usage of war you shall have. All horses belonging to the artillery and cavalry, all waggons and teams in the public service will be sold for the benfit of the captors. Public stores will be secured for the service of the U. States. The Government will, with justice, pay you the value.

The horses drawing the light artillery of the enemy are wanted for the service of the U. States. I will order two hundred dollars for each to be paid to the party who may take them.

I will also order forty dollars to be paid for the arms and spoils of each savage warrior who shall be killed.

Soldiers, you are amply provided for war. You are superior in number to the enemy. Your personal strength and activity are greater. Your weapons are longer. The regular soldiers of the enemy are generally old men, whose best years have been spent in the sickly climate of the West Indies.

They will not be able to stand before you when you charge with the bayonet.

You have seen Indians such as those hired by the British to murder women and children and kill and scalp the wounded. You have seen their dances and grimaces and heard their yells. Can you fear them? No; you hold them in the utmost contempt.

Volunteers: Disloyal and traitorous men have endeavored to dissuade you from your duty. Sometimes they say if you enter Canada you will be held to service for five years. At others they say that if you are wounded the Government will not provide for you by pensions. The just and generous course pursued by the Government towards the volunteers who fought at Tippecanoe furnishes an answer to the last objection. The others are too absurd to require any.

Volunteers: I esteem your generous and patriotic motives. You have made sacrifices on the altar of your country. You will not suffer the enemies of your fame to mislead you from the path of duty and honor and deprive you of the esteem of a grateful country. You will shun the *eternal infamy* that awaits the man who, having come within the sight of the enemy, *basely* shrinks in the moment of trial.

Soldiers of the corps: It is in your power to retrieve the honor of your country and to cover yourselves with glory. Every man who performs a gallant action shall have his name made known to the nation. Rewards and honors await the brave. Infamy and contempt are reserved for cowards. Companions in arms!

you come to vanquish a valiant foe. I know the choice you will make. Come on my heroes! And when you attack the enemy's batteries let your rallying word be: "The cannon lost at Detroit or Death."

ALEXANDER SMYTH,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

Camp near Buffalo, 17th Nov., 1812.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 139.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 17th November, 1812.)

AFFAIRS ON OUR FRONTIERS.

From General Harrison we have nothing since our last. He is very probably at this time at the Miami Rapids with an army of at least 8,000 men under his command, mostly volunteers, and many of them experienced riflemen. *We calculate* that he will be at Detroit before the 25th of this month, and then he will put the *opposition* down. The serene Governor Procter, like his predecessor Hull, will be compelled to resign his commission and his Secretary, *Woodward*, (Chief Justice of Michigan under James Madison and Secretary of Michigan under King George,) will go *the Lord knows where*, perhaps into exile in the vicinity of the Lake of the Woods, there to spend the remnant of his days in penning "*Considerations on the Executive Government of the United States.*" *We calculate* that, considering the navigation of Lake Erie being nearly at a close, and all the British shipping being at the upper end of the lake, the British will not be able to reinforce Malden this fall, and of course when the brave Harrison disperses the hordes of savages in the vicinity of that place and closely invests the fort, Malden must *capitulate*. From Malden down to Fort Erie our army will find no other enemy than the wilderness well stocked with snow.

Respecting the force on the Canadian side of the Niagara, various conjectures and opinions are afloat. At the battle of Queenston it is believed that the British had nearly 1,500 men engaged, of whom 100 were killed or badly wounded; at Fort Erie and in the batteries below there could not have been more than 100 or 200; at other points on the river there could not have been more than 100; at Newark and Fort George probably not more than 3 or 400. Therefore, the British forces at that time, regulars and militia, (exclusive of 100 or 200 Indians,) will fall short of 2,000. Since that time their reinforcements from head of the Lake Ontario, York, Kingston and other places on the lake cannot exceed 500

men. It has been here reported and believed that a General De Ruytenburg from Montreal has arrived at Fort George with 2,000 men. How far that may be true we don't pretend to determine. The only account we have of troops passing up the St. Lawrence is mentioned in the Ogdensburg *Palladium*, which states that on the 21st of October 53 British boats, laden with arms, ammunition and clothing, having on board 150 or 200 Indians, and guarded by a considerable body of regulars and militia, passed that village on their way to the lake. Now from these estimates, which must be considered very imperfect, it will not appear that the enemy's force on the Niagara can amount to more than 3,500, allowing them to have obtained every reinforcement in their power, and as this force is stationed at several different points on the river, it is not probable they can bring more than 1,500 men into the field at any one engagement. It can hardly be necessary to give any opinion of their fighting. When they must know that Forts Erie and George are in our possession and Upper Canada ours this event will have great influence on the operations and movements in the Lower Province.

Of our own force on the Niagara it becomes us not to speak at present, but we have no hesitation in saying that it is amply sufficient to accomplish any object in contemplation. By the address of General Smyth in the first page of this paper it will be seen that "in a few days the American Standard will be planted in Canada." An opportunity for volunteers to distinguish themselves is now offered, and it is hoped that those who have shewn such a zeal for valorous deeds and such a strong desire to meet the enemy *on his own ground* will step forward and shew to the world that their patriotism is as good as their professions. Let unanimity, firmness and resolution animate the troops and all will be well—but should a contrary disposition manifest itself, it will not require a prophet to foretell the consequences.

(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 25th Nov., 1812.)

From the Manlius Times published in Onondaga County, Nov. 17.

The following extracts of letters from gentlemen in Buffalo to their friends in this village contain information as late as any we have from that quarter.

CAMP AT BUFFALO, Nov. 6, 1812.

Should 2,000 militia arrive this week from Pennsylvania we shall have another invasion, and the commanding officers say that those who will not voluntarily embark shall be forced, and as there

are many who will never volunteer in an *offensive* operation there may be an opportunity for them to maintain *principle* at the risk of life. We are at present in a most deplorable situation—the regulars are daily sickening; four or five on an average are daily buried; no attendance at the hospitals; wounds not dressed; in fine, everything that is sure to rid man of life is here practised. The militia at Schlosser are in a state of mutiny; have stacked their arms and are determined to leave the lines. Some of their officers are on parole from the British, others dismissed, the different regiments consolidated into one, and over some new officers appointed. These things have given general dissatisfaction, and the dissatisfied being more numerous than the others, should a courtmartial sentence any to punishment it would be impossible to execute it without the loss of many lives. On the 3rd a volunteer company at this place stacked their arms and told their officers that they have been in the service three months without receiving pay or clothes, and that they would not stand guard again in the cold without shoes, stockings and pantaloons, and with the mere covering of a blanket. Representations were made to General Smyth, who ordered a battalion of 200 to march them under guard to the encampment three miles from the village. What the result will be I cannot surmise.

———

BUFFALO, November 8.

If another attack is made this fall fourteen days will not elapse before the trial. If ever a nation was cursed for inhumanity ours will be. They bury from the troops at the Court House four soldiers upon an average daily, two at the camp and three or four at Lewiston. All, we may say, for not having proper surgeons.

The riflemen have been generally healthy since they came to this place, but are growing more sickly. One of Captain Bristol's company (George Jones of Onondaga) died last Friday. The whole effective force of the army, now on the lines between this place and Fort Niagara, does not exceed 3,000 regulars and 1,000 militia, the various reports to the contrary, notwithstanding.

November 11.—The greatest distress prevails in the camp by reason of sickness. Upwards of 100 of those wounded in the battle of the 13th October have already been buried. The two brigades of militia, formerly commanded by Brigadier-Generals Wadsworth and Miller, have been, by order of General Smyth, (an officer of the regular army,) consolidated into one regiment and stationed at Schlosser. Two or three from the regiment die daily, and of the regular army of this place (numbering about 2,500) three or four

die upon an average every day. The militia are deserting by hundreds. Nothing but tents to lie in and no other meat than fresh beef.

November 12.—Captain Kellogg and his company were discharged yesterday, and will mostly start for home to-morrow. Two of his company only will be unable to go home at this time, Levi Bishop, who lost his arm, and Peter Henegin. Captain Bristol's company expect to be discharged in a few days.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

From the Quebec Mercury, 8th December, 1812.

KINGSTON, November 17th.

Early on Tuesday morning last information was conveyed to town that seven American vessels full of men were approaching. At daylight the troops and militia were under arms, and detachments were immediately sent to occupy the different avenues to the town in order to give the enemy a proper reception should they be disposed to land. The flying artillery were despatched in advance of the troops. When they had passed Collins' Bay several shots were fired by our gun boat at the nearest vessel, which they returned, but without effect on either side. At Everett's Point one of our field pieces opened fire upon them, the shot from which appeared to strike several times and they thought prudent to sheer further off. About two o'clock they approached the town and were fired at by the batteries. They opened and kept up a brisk fire in their turn upon the *Royal George* and upon our batteries, which was continued till after sunset, when the enemy hauled their wind and anchored under the Four Mile Point, having done no other mischief than killing one man on board the *Royal George*. It is supposed that some damage was done to their largest vessel, the *Oneida*, as some of our shot from the battery at Missassagua Point were seen to strike her. On their way down the bay of Kenty in the morning they burned a small vessel belonging to Messrs. B. Fairfield & Co.

The alarm had been early communicated through the country, and persons of every age flocked into town from every quarter, eager to repulse the invaders from our peaceful shores. The veteran Loyalists, who had manifested their zeal for their Sovereign during the American rebellion, showed that age had not extinguished their ardor, and though many of them had passed that time of life when military service could be legally required, they scorned exemption when their inveterate foes approached. Before night the town was crowded with brave men, who, insensible to fatigue, were anxious

only to grapple with the enemy, who had they attempted to land would have paid dearly for their temerity. The conduct of the inhabitants of the Midland District on this occasion will be long remembered to their honor.

On Wednesday morning the American fleet got under way. After beating up towards the lake for some time two of them bore away and sailed down the river, keeping at a respectful distance from our batteries, which, nevertheless, gave them a shot in passing. The other five continued their progress. Early in the afternoon another vessel appeared in sight, which appeared to be the *Simcoe*. She was chased by the enemy, who fired upwards of fifty shots at her. But she escaped by the intrepidity and dexterity of the master and crew, not, however, without receiving a shot between wind and water that must have sunk her had she been much farther from port. In the evening they were out of sight.

Early on Saturday morning the sloop *Elizabeth*, Henry Nunney master and owner, which sailed from York on Wednesday night, under convoy of the *Earl of Moira*, was taken by the *Julia*, one of the American vessels.

Extract of a letter, dated Kingston, November 20.

Next day the enemy fired at the *Simcoe* on her passage from Niagara, and one ball struck her, which rendered the crew's situation very critical. She, however, got safe into Kingston. About 2,000 men had assembled here from all parts of the Bay of Quinte, so we were well prepared if the enemy meant to land.

The *Earl of Moira* arrived 2 or 3 days after with the intelligence that Captain Murney's sloop and the schooner *Mary Hatt* were taken, with Captain Brock, 49th Regt., and all General Brock's baggage. The Americans, however, sent back Captain Brock and all the baggage, as also Captain Miller of the *Mary Hatt*. They have detained Captain Murney on account of his having concealed his papers and telling them he had none. He is soon, however, to be sent over to us. All are in arms here—boys from the age of twelve years.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

Militia Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 18th Novr., 1812.

Lieuts. Pawling, Servos, Stevenson, and Ensign Robertson of the 1st Lincoln Regiment will proceed to the country and bring in such men of their respective companies as are now absent. It is to

be understood that officers are not to confine themselves to take up men of their own companies, but every militiaman they meet without a pass, and bring them to Fort George. They will take with them one sergeant or private from each company.

(From New York Evening Post, Friday, November 22d, 1812.)

From the Western Federalist, Nov. 18.

One of the editors of this paper returned yesterday from a perilous and distressing campaign at Buffalo and Niagara, the company being discharged for want of men. The whole line from Buffalo to Niagara does not contain more at present than 3,000 men, but 2,000 Pennsylvania volunteers are daily expected to join them, and so indeed they have been expected these two months past. Previous to the battle of Queenston there were more than double the present number, but what with the loss on that affair, the great desertion of militia by wholesale and retail, through starvation and disgust of the service and objection to serve under United States officers, few militia are left. Much sickness prevails on the line. At Buffalo village 20 of Smyth's regulars have died since the 28th October, and 100 are now sick at the hospital in Buffalo village. Added to this five vessels have arrived at Fort George with British troops and returned (as supposed for more), so that there is an end to any expectation of another invasion of Canada this campaign, for all Mr. Smyth and his troops say to the contrary notwithstanding.

(From File in New York Society Library.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 19th November, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of acquainting Your Excellency that about half-past eight o'clock this night I received a letter from Major Ormsby, commanding at Fort Erie, dated at half-past twelve this day, enclosing a letter addressed to him by Brigadier-General Smyth, commanding the "army of the centre," as he styles it," in which he announces that the armistice is to terminate at "9 o'clock to-morrow evening, the 20th instant." The despatch which this accompanies was intended to go with Doctor Richmond in the *Prince Regent* to York, but the arrival from Detroit having given me some intelligence to add to it, and there being another vessel at my disposal, and the *Prince Regent* having on board what might be essential to the defence of York, the wind being fair, I allowed

her to sail. Unfortunately the wind soon after shifted and has detained the vessel, but if the wind should not prove favorable early in the morning I shall send off an express by land.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop returned this evening from a second inspection of the militia. He had heard on his way down of the termination of the armistice, and imparted the intelligence to the corps stationed on his route, who received it with strong marks of joy, but I should wish to have had possession first of some articles for them that are yet at Kingston, those particularly of which it unfortunately happens that but a small portion has been brought up. I should have been glad to have been joined by the party of of the artillery before the rupture of the armistice; as it is, I almost despair of their coming here. Winter seems to have set in. A strong north-west wind has been blowing nearly a fortnight with the intermission of the short period which permitted the sailing of the *Prince Regent.*

Whatever may be the event of another conflict with the enemy, I feel confident that the troops in general that I have the honor to command will perform their duty.

(Canadian Archives, C, 677.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 19th Nov., 1812.

Until further orders the Grand and Visiting Rounds from Fort George will confine their rounds by night to betwixt the Two-Mile Creek and the detached guard south of the Fort, but the Grand Rounds will visit by day as far as the 4-Mile Battery on the lake. Capt. Chambers will give the necessary orders for the rounds from his post to visit as far as Brown's Point, and the officers stationed at Brown's Point to take the rounds from thence to the Two-Mile hut. The officer stationed at McFarland's will visit betwixt the Two-Mile hut and detached guard.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 20th Nov., 1812.

PAROLE PIGOT.

The Major-General commanding announces to the troops

stationed along the frontier the termination of the armistice at nine o'clock this evening.

To men who have already so nobly conducted themselves before the enemy it would be superfluous in the Major-General to say more than that he is persuaded that whenever the opportunity shall present itself they will again prove themselves worthy of the glorious cause in which they are engaged, and successfully defend their country, their families, and property.

No. 2. The troops will commence wearing their winter clothing from this day.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
B. M.

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 20th November, 1812.

The commanders of the different posts are to use the utmost vigilance and enjoin it in all those under their command. No officer or soldier is to take off his clothes at night. One-half of the troops in quarters to be in perfect readiness to turn out at a moment's warning at any time of the night, for which purpose the night is to be divided into four watches, from the close of one day to full daylight of the following one.

During the day the men are not to stray from their quarters, and are to be accoutred with arms in their hands if out of their quarters, and when in they are to be so placed as that each man shall be able to seize his arms at an instant's notice. Frequent patrols must be sent out during the night. Sentries are to be so distributed that any movement of the enemy shall be immediately discovered and the alarm given.

From the officers the Major-General expects the most exemplary alertness.

The men are not on any occasion to be uselessly exposed to a cannonade. If the enemy attempts to cross the water he is not to be opposed by musquetry until he is well within its range, and if he perseveres in endeavoring to gain the shore he is to be attacked at the point of the bayonet with the most determined resolution, such as becomes the character of the British arms, which has hitherto been so nobly sustained by the troops of all descriptions on this frontier. If in spite of every exertion any portion of the troops should be forced by great superiority of numbers to retire, the best possible order is to be preserved, covering the retreat by a steady

well directed fire, closing to that flank of which the most speedy and effectual support may be expected.

If necessity should arise for abandoning a post all ammunition, provisions and other articles that may be useful to an enemy are to be destroyed, timely preparations for which having been previously made.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 20th November, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer, will proceed immediately to Chippawa and take upon himself the command of the troops of every description from that post inclusive to Point Abino. He will direct such alteration in their distribution as circumstances may render necessary, and assign to each field officer on the line a portion for his particular superintendence.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,
B. M.

General Smyth to General Tannehill.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
November 21st, 1812.

SIR,—Will you be pleased to ascertain whether there are any companies of your brigade who will refuse to serve the United States in Canada.

I deem it essential we should know on whom we may rely with confidence.

Brigadier-General Adamson Tannehill to General Smyth.

CAMP AT GRANGER'S FARM,
22nd November, 1812.

SIR,—To enable me to answer your note of yesterday I convened my field officers in camp. *The prevailing opinion appears to be that if an efficient force can be had to cross into Canada a very general embarkation of my brigade may be expected.* If, on the contrary, it is difficult for me to say what number may be calculated on.

Return of the officers and privates of the First Brigade of Pennsylvania Volunteers, under the command of Brigadier-General Adamson Tannehill, who have volunteered to cross the boundary line in the Province of Upper Canada to assist in establishing the American standard in that Province :

First regiment of riflemen—Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, seven companies, 13 officers, 79 privates.

Second regiment of riflemen—Lieut.-Colonel Piper, seven companies, 8 officers, 133 privates.

First regiment of infantry—Lieut.-Colonel Snyder, six companies, 35 privates.

Second regiment of infantry—Lieut.-Colonel Purviance, nine companies, 16 officers, 145 privates.

Total—413.

From the United States Gazette of Philadelphia, 8th Dec., 1812.

CANANDAIGUA, November 21.

Volunteering—Since the publication of General Smyth's proclamation a considerable number of citizens in the different towns in this county have assembled and subscribed volunteer enrollments for a short tour across the Niagara. Several companies have already marched, and others we hear will march immediately. We calculate on from 700 to 1,000 men from this county.

We are informed that 1,200 or 1,300 have already volunteered and enrolled themselves in the county of Genesee. We think Niagara will furnish an equal number.

We hear also that the little county of Seneca, although it has a number of men already on the frontiers, will yet furnish many more ; that Cayuga will furnish a large number. We calculate on 1,000 men from these two counties. The aggregate number of volunteers which will turn out on this occasion it is supposed will be at least 3,500 and probably 4,000.

MESSENGER.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, CHAMBLY,
Nov. 21, 1812.

No. 22.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that the efforts of the enemy at Sackett's Harbor enabled them to send

out on the 10th instant seven sail of armed vessels, manned by the crew of one of the American frigates and commanded by some of their naval officers, having on board a considerable detachment of troops for the purpose of carrying the port of Kingston by surprise and of destroying His Majesty's ship *Royal George* then lying there. I have much satisfaction in reporting to Your Lordship that the vigilance and military skill of Colonel Vincent, who is in command at Kingston, frustrated their designs, and after many hours of ineffectual cannonade the American flotilla hauled off, and on the following day returned into port. . . . .

. . . . . .

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 43.)

Major W. K. Armistead to General Smyth.

LEWISTON, November 22, 1812.

SIR,—I left Niagara with the intention of seeing you, but finding my horse not able to proceed have declined going. My business was to get if possible some ammunition for the garrison, as we nearly expended all we had yesterday, and which did great damage —destroyed one of their best buildings and did the town considerable damage, sunk a schooner that was cut out of Genesee river and dismounted several of their guns.

It gives me extreme pleasure to inform you that the officers behaved themselves with the greatest degree of bravery. Captain Leonard was as conspicuous as to coolness and attention as I have ever seen. We on our part lost five men, three from the bursting of a gun and two from the enemy's fire; several wounded from careless loading. If possible, dear sir, send on ammunition for eighteen and six-pounders and fours, but my greatest concern is the want of provisions, which, if not supplied, we will inevitably have to evacuate the post.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Major-General Sheaffe.

FORT GEORGE, 22d Oct., (November ?) 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that in obedience to your orders I directed Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery to open a cannonade upon the enemy's fort at half-past seven o'clock yesterday morning, beginning with the gun stationed near the lighthouse, following it up in the front and from Fort George. In

a quarter of an hour the enemy returned a sharp but ill-directed fire.

During the day the enemy ceased firing at different periods, some times to assist in extinguishing fires which were visible issuing from many buildings in their fort, from the effects of our shells and heated shot, and sometimes to obtain supplies of ammunition. From a well directed shell which burst upon the enemy's north blockhouse, the gun upon that building was dismounted and abandoned. A shot from the 24-pounder right of Fort George entered an embrasure of the enemy's two-gun battery at Youngstown, upset the 18-pounder and rendered it unserviceable for about two hours. About eleven o'clock the old building at Navy Hall, occupied as the mess room of the garrison, was set on fire by the enemy's battery at Youngstown and entirely consumed. An eight-inch shell bursting on the top of the stone house in the enemy's fort silenced a 6-pounder on that building for more than an hour, when that gun was again manned. It was remarkable for having fired three rounds without shot.

A public building of the enemy under this fort, near the river's edge, was set in a blaze by our hot shot, and from the well directed fire kept upon it all his efforts to extinguish it were frustrated. It was, together with an adjacent building, totally destroyed.

From the many excellent shells thrown and the general judicious direction of our fire much serious injury must have been done to the enemy's works and barracks, and Captain Holcroft reported to me that several of their killed and wounded were at one time observed to be removed from the picketing of the north curtain, through the gate of the west, and some from Youngstown to the fort.

At 5 o'clock P. M. the enemy entirely ceased firing from his fort, but continued it feebly from his battery at Youngstown. I then, when it was nearly dark, ordered our batteries and fort to cease.

During the day one of our barracks in Fort George sustained some damage from the enemy's shot, all of which against our fort and town appeared to be heated. The town, too, has been in some parts injured. We have only to lament the loss of an old half-pay officer, Captain Frey, and one private of the 49th Regiment.

The talent and zeal of Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery are too well known to gain additional claims on the service from any praise of mine, but I cannot omit observing to you that they were upon this occasion most conspicuous.

I received during the day very great assistance from Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster General of Militia, from Major-of-

Brigade Evans, Captain Vigoreux, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Fowler, 41st Regiment, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General.

In the absence of Captain Powell, who had been for some days sick, Captain Cameron of the militia artillery was stationed at the 24-pounder on the left and executed his duty with much judgment and activity. The spirits manifested by the troops of the line and militia were highly gratifying, and strongly tends to prove that the expectations entertained of their gallant defence will not be disappointed whenever the enemy may dare to come in contact with them.

Statement of Sarah Willott.

Sarah Willott says that part of the enemy's army is at Buffalo and part encamped between that place and Black Rock. It is reported that their number is about twelve thousand and that they intend making an attack shortly at Fort Erie and below it and taking over forty pieces of cannon with them. That nineteen hundred men are on their route from Pennsylvania to the Black Rock. That provisions are very scarce and very bad: that their army is suffering much from want of clothing and from yet being encamped, and that they are preparing their boats to come over.

Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEOROE, 23rd Nov., 1812.

SIR,—I have this day received a packet from York containing a letter from Colonel Vincent, apprising me of the return of Paymaster Brock from Sackett's Harbor and of the intelligence brought from thence by him. It fully confirms that which had been previously received through several channels of the activity of the enemy in preparing the most formidable means for establishing a superiority on the lakes. If the weather at this advanced period should not countenance their design of employing them against us this season, and we should be fortunate enough to maintain our military positions in this Province during this winter, it will require exertions of the most energetic kind to enable us to contend with them in the spring for the ascendency on the lakes, to obtain which engages the particular attention of the American Government as being necessary to the attainment of what is evidently the main object of the war, the possession of the Upper Province, with an

ulterior view to establishing a control over the numerous Indian nations.

I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency an address which I have received from the committee of the Executive Council of this Province respecting the comparative state of its marine. The subject is indeed interesting and has a special claim on the attention of the guardians of the public welfare.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 115.*)

Return of the killed, wounded and missing of the following corps of the division of the army serving in Upper Canada under the command of Major-General Sheaffe in an affair with the enemy on the 21st and 28th November, 1812:

21st November.—Royal Artillery—1 rank and file wounded.

49th Foot—1 rank and file killed.

28th November.—Royal Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file wounded.

49th Foot—12 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, 22 rank and file wounded; 3 drummers, 21 rank and file missing.

Militia Artillery—1 sergeant wounded.

1st Regiment Norfolk Militia—1 sergeant killed; 1 captain, 8 rank and file wounded, 2 rank and file missing.

2nd Regiment Norfolk Militia—1 rank and file killed; 7 rank and file wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

Total loss—14 rank and file (line), 1 sergeant, 1 rank and file (militia), killed; 2 lieutenants, 3 sergeants, 24 rank and file (line), 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 15 rank and file (militia), wounded; 3 drummers, 21 rank and file (line), 11 rank and file (militia), missing.

General total—1 sergeant, 16 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, 39 rank and file wounded; 3 drummers, 32 rank and file missing.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Royal Artillery—Lieut. King, severely, and taken prisoner.

49th Foot—Lieutenant Lamont, severely.

1st Norfolk Militia—Captain Bostwick, slightly; Lieutenant Ryerson, severely.

THOMAS EVANS, Major-of-Brigade.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 24th November, 1812.

The flank companies of the 49th Regiment will march from Queenston for Fort George so as to arrive at the latter post before daylight to-morrow morning.

2nd. Captain Chambers will give orders for the return of Captain Durand's company to Queenston, and Captain Applegarth's company will return and occupy its former quarters.

3rd. The attention of the officers is called to the order of 12th of July, 1812, whereby it is forbidden for any individual to fire across the river without orders.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 24th November, 1812.)

ARMISTICE OFF; WAR RECOMMENCED.

On Friday evening at 9 o'clock p. m. the armistice, concluded between General Smyth and General Sheaffe, expired, thirty hours notice having been previously given by General Smyth. After the notice was given the British armed vessel, then lying at Fort Erie, sailed up the lake. On Saturday morning a heavy firing of cannon was heard from Niagara, which continued at intervals for several hours. Accounts have been received from that quarter which state that the cannonading was commenced by the British; that during the firing a gun burst in Fort Niagara which killed three men and destroyed the hands of another; that the fort sustained some damage, and that two or three men were killed by the enemy's shot and that the British lost some men.

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

On Wednesday last the Pennsylvania Volunteers, under General Tannehill, arrived at the Buffalo encampment, nearly 2,000 strong. They made a very fine martial appearance and are generally composed of healthy young men. About one-fourth of the brigade are riflemen.

The most active and indefatigable exertions are making to forward the enterprise on foot. Volunteers from different parts are coming in daily to join the American army. The town of Batavia has been patriotic: a subscription of 700 dollars, we understand, has been made for the purpose of paying the volunteers an extra price for coming forward and joining the army. Captain Stevens's

Greys from Willink and Captain Bemis's Greys from Hamburg have arrived in this village.

General P. B. Porter, we learn, is to take command of the volunteers. Dr. C. Chapin is appointed major, Samuel Pratt, Esq., adjutant, and J. E. Chaplin, Esq., quartermaster. The names of the other officers are not in our possession.

Many deaths have taken place in the hospitals at Lewiston and Schlosser, and four in the hospital in our village since our last.

Court Martial.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
November 15th, 1812.

At a general court martial, whereof Major Campbell was president, was tried Captain John Phillips of the volunteer troops in the service of the United States, on the following charges and specifications:

CHARGE 1ST.

Violating the 8th article of the rules and articles of war.

Specification.

In this that on the 4th day of this month at Buffalo 31 men of his company mutinied, stacked their arms and refused to do duty, and that he the said Captain Phillips, being present, did not use his *utmost* endeavors to suppress the same.

CHARGE 2ND.

Neglect of duty.

Specification.

That on a mutiny in his company on the 4th of November 1812, at Buffalo, he did not suppress it, use coercive measures to suppress it, or apply to his immediate commanding officer or any superior officer for aid to suppress it.

To which charges and specifications the prisoner plead *not guilty.*

The court found the prisoner *not guilty* of either of the charges or specifications alleged against him and therefore acquits him.

The General, believing that the *mind* of Captain Phillips was *not guilty*, confirms the sentence of the court and orders that he resume his sword and return to his duty.

But he will remark that unless greater endeavors to suppress mutiny when it appears are made than Captain Phillips exerted it would be impossible to keep an army together.

If when a company mutinies no effort is made by the commanding officer of the company, the battalion or regiment, to suppress it except reporting it to the General and leaving it to him to suppress it, *his* task is heavy.

An officer present at a mutiny, who never draws his sword and uses only words, cannot be said to use his utmost endeavors to suppress it.

By order,

JAMES BANKHEAD,
Captain and Brigade-Major.

Lieut.-Colonel George McFeeley to Brigadier-General Smyth.

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you that on the morning of the 21st November at six o'clock a heavy cannonading opened on this garrison from all the batteries at and in the neighborhood, which lasted without intermission until sundown. They had five detached batteries, two mounting 24-pounders, one mounting a nine, and two mortar batteries, one 10½ the other 5½ inch. The batteries firing hot shot, which set some of our buildings on fire, but from the extraordinary vigilance of the officers and men, particularly Major Armistead of the United States Corps of Engineers, whose indefatigable exertions were extended to all parts of the garrison, the fires were got under without being observed by the enemy.

Our garrison was not as well provided with artillery and ammunition as I could have wished; however, the batteries opened a tremendous fire upon them in return, with hot shot, admirably well directed.

Several times during the cannonading the town of Newark was in flames, but was extinguished by their engines, as also the centre building in Fort George. Their mess-house and all the buildings near it were consumed. Captain McKeon commanded a twelve-pounder in the S. E. blockhouse and distinguished himself by his usual gallantry and skill. Captain Jacks of the 7th Regiment, Militia Artillery, commanded a six-pounder on the north blockhouse, and, together with a part of his own company, though placed in a situation the most exposed to the fire of the enemy, maintained their position like veterans.

Lieutenant Rees had command of an eighteen-pounder on the south-east battery, which was pointed at a battery *en barbette*, mounting a twenty-four pounder, and also at Fort George several well directed shots were made from this gun, which proved the skill of its commander. About ten o'clock Lieutenant Rees had his left

shoulder bruised by part of the parapet falling on him which, though it did not materially injure him, obliged him to retire, and Captain Leonard of the First Regiment, United States Artillery, at that moment arriving he took command of this battery for the remainder of the day. Lieutenant Wendel of the Second Regiment, Artillery, had command of an eighteen and four-pounder on the west battery, and Dr. Hooper, of Captain Jack's company of militia artillery, had the command of a six-pounder on the mess-house. Of these gentlemen and their commands I cannot speak with too much praise. They distinguished themselves highly, and from their shot, all of which was hot, the town of Newark was repeatedly fired and one of the enemy's batteries silenced for a time.

An instance of extraordinary bravery in a female (the wife of one Doyle, a private in the United States Artillery, made a prisoner at Queenston,) I cannot pass over. During the most tremendous cannonading I have ever seen, she attended the six-pounder on the mess-house with red hot shot, and showed fortitude equal to the Maid of Orleans. Lieutenants Gansevoort and Hains of the First Regiment United States Artillery had the command of the Salt Battery at Youngstown, mounting an eighteen and a four-pounder; these two guns played upon the garrison of Fort George and the buildings near it. From every observation I could make during their fire, I am happy to say they merited my warmest thanks for their skill in the service of these guns. Lieutenant Hains from his four-pounder sunk a schooner which lay at their wharf. She was one of those taken by the enemy at the mouth of the Genesee river a short time since. He also assisted in burning and destroying the buildings near the wharf. These two officers and their men in the warmest part of the cannonading having fired away all their cartridges cut up their flannel waistcoats and shirts, and the soldiers their trowsers, to supply their guns.

I cannot say too much in praise of all the officers and soldiers of the artillery immediately under my observation in this garrison. They merit the thanks and esteem of their country for the defence of it, and I believe it never sustained so sharp and continued a bombardment.

The enemy threw more than two thousand red hot balls into it and a number of shells, amounting to more than 180, only one of which did injury to our men.

Lieut.-Colonel Gray commanded the artillery. The unremitting attention paid to his duty proves him an officer whose zeal and science do honor to himself and country; to this gentleman I feel much indebted for the manner he acquitted himself.

To the officers of my regiment (particularly Captain Milligan)

and the soldiers who assisted the artillery, and those employed in extinguishing the fires and carrying off the killed and wounded, I am also much indebted. They merit my warmest thanks. To Dr. West of the garrison, Dr. Hogan of the 14th Regiment United States Infantry, and Dr. Craig of the 22nd Regiment United States Infantry, I offer my thanks. They were employed during the entire day in the most critical duties of their profession.

Our killed and wounded amount to eleven.

Killed—Sergeant Jones, First Regiment, United States Artillery; Salisbury, 2nd Regiment, United States Artillery; Privates Stewart, 22nd Regiment, United States Infantry; Lewis, First Regiment, United States Artillery.

Wounded—Officers—Lieut. Thomas, 22nd Regiment, United States Infantry; Privates—Bowman, 14th Regiment, United States Infantry; McEvoy, Campbell and Welsh, First Regiment, United States Artillery; Roy, third United States Artillery; Woodsworth, Seventh Militia, artillery.

From the number we saw carried off from the enemy's batteries I presume many more were killed and wounded on their side.

Only two of the above men were killed by the enemy's shot, the rest by the bursting of a 12-pounder in the S. E. blockhouse and by the spunges of the guns on the north blockhouse and at the Salt Battery.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 116-8.)

Monthly Distribution Return of the Troops in Upper Canada, Nov. 25th, 1812.

York—Commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Shortt, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Staff, 2 officers	2
Royal Artillery, 4 rank and file	4
41st Regiment, 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 25 rank and file fit for duty, 6 sick	36
49th Regiment, 1 sergeant, 20 rank and file fit for duty, 5 sick	26
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 1 officer, 1 private fit for duty	2
Canadian Fencibles, 1 officer	1
	71

Fort George—Commanded by Captain Derenzy, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Staff, 10 officers	10
Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 17 rank and file fit for duty, 3 sick	21
Royal Engineers, 1 officer	1
41st Regiment, 10 officers, 20 sergeants, 16 drummers, 155 rank and file fit for duty, 10 sick	211
49th Regiment, 4 officers, 7 sergeants, 4 drummers, 130 rank and file fit for duty, 17 sick	162
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 2 officers, 3 sergeants, 49 rank and file fit for duty, 4 sick	58
Glengarry Light Infantry, 1 officer	1
	464

Landing (Queenston)—Commanded by Captain Chambers, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Royal Artillery, 10 rank and file fit for duty	10
41st Regiment, 3 officers, 4 sergeants, 9 drummers, 91 rank and file fit for duty, 7 sick	114
	124

Chippawa—Commanded by Capt. Bullock, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Royal Artillery, 8 rank and file fit for duty	8
41st Regiment, 6 officers, 11 sergeants, 2 drummers, 322 rank and file fit for duty, 7 sick	348
49th Regiment, 2 rank and file fit for duty	2
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 2 rank and file fit for duty	2
	360

Fort Erie—Commanded by Major Ormsby, 49th Regiment:

	Total
Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 10 rank and file	11
8th Regiment, 1 officer	1
41st Regiment, 3 rank and file	3
49th Regiment, 7 officers, 16 sergeants, 5 drummers, 221 rank and file fit for duty, 2 sick	251
	266

Doing marine duty on the lakes:

	Total
Royal Newfoundland Regiment—2 lieutenants, 3 sergeants, 4 drummers, 117 rank and file	126

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, pp. 56-7.)

General Order.

BANKS OF THE NIAGARA, 8 o'clock at night,
November 25, 1812.

Colonel Winder will pass over to the Canada shore with the troops, who are marched from camp this evening, and will superintend the attack of the enemies' batteries and parties, distributing his force in the following manner:

Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, with the detachment of the 14th Regiment, will attack the guard at the bridge opposite the upper point of Strawberry Island. Lieut.-Colonel Coles, with the companies of Captains Sangster, Taylor, Myers and the company, late Branches, will take the party at the Red House. Major Campbell, with the companies of Captains Buckner, Morgan, Stannard and Page will attack the guard house opposite the lower point of Squaw Island. Captain King and Lieutenant Angus of the navy (who is so good as to offer his services and those of the seamen under his command,) will with the companies of Captains Wool, Sproul and Martin attack the batteries opposite to Black Rock. Captain Bankhead, with the companies of Captains Brooke, Wharterby, Chambers and Dorman, will attack the enemy's batteries opposite to Fort Gibson.

The parties will support each other as circumstances may require and as Colonel Winder may order.

The enemy's guns are to be spiked and dismounted, the bridge rendered impassable, all boats brought off, and as many prisoners as possible taken.

Colonel Winder will bring off his detachment from the Canada shore by daylight to-morrow.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

Colonel Winder to General Smyth.

November 25, 1812.

SIR,—The indisposition of the officers to cross is such, and the real difficulties for the want of a little preparatory arrangement, that I fear the issue will be disgraceful and fatal. I would venture to recommend a delay of the expedition.

(From the New York Evening Post, Thursday, 10th December, 1812.)

From the Hudson Whig.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Abel M. Grosvenor of Buffalo to his brother in this city, dated

BUFFALO, November 25.

I have hardly time to give you a description of the mob in this village. It was composed of the same miscreants who were in the Baltimore riot. They are the volunteers from Baltimore, and their lieutenant is the editor of the *Baltimore Whig*. There arose a dispute between Pomeroy, who keeps the hotel, and some of these fellows. They became outrageous, and swore that they would tear down the house of every federalist in the village—that they "would kill all the federalists and damned tories." They began about 4 o'clock on Pomeroy's house, broke out all the windows, and broke his furniture, which was very valuable. They then cut down his sign and attempted to pull down his house. Not succeeding in this, they set fire to the house three or four times, which, if it had not been extinguished, would have destroyed the whole village. I saw the danger and ran down to the place immediately. Two of the fellows came at me with their bayonets. I stopped one of them with an andiron I held in my hand and then retreated. Two others then pursued me with their bayonets. I stumbled and fell, but just as they were attempting to plunge them into me I recovered and caught them in my hand. I succeeded in bringing them both to the ground, and should certainly have prevented their acting a part in any other mob, when others behind me plunged a bayonet into my side. I providentially succeeded in rescuing myself from the bloodthirsty miscreants without any very dangerous wound.

Colonel Porter (not Peter B. Porter) came up with his flying artillery and ordered a charge sword in hand. Three of the mob were mortally wounded. Colonel Porter, ColonelMc Clure, Captain Babcock of your county (Columbia), Captain Maher of the Abany Greens, Lieut. Whitney, Adjutants Swartwout and Burn, and Major Noon, were prompt and decided in quelling the mob. They have done themselves great honor.

We are all yet in confusion, tho' the mob is put down; we have a guard of three hundred regulars posted at the village, but they all cross to Canada to-morrow morning, and what our fate will be God only knows. I am confined with my wounds, but trust I will be out in a few days, when I shall write you more fully.

(From File in New York Society Library.)

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 27th November, 1812.

There not being stoves sufficient for the troops in general on this frontier and at York, no stove is to be issued to or left in possession of an officer for his use.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
November 27, 1812.

The men for service in this camp and those in the vicinity will cook two days' provision and have it in their haversacks at retreat.

At reveille to-morrow every soldier will put on his knapsack, shoulder his musket, and prepare for battle with flints and cartridges, will march to the navy yard on his way to Canada.

The boats will be ready for the embarkation.

The tents and sick will be left under the care of guards of invalids until a convenient time.

Friends of your country! Ye who have "the will to do, the heart to dare," the moment you have wished for has arrived. Think on your country's honor lost, her rights trampled on, her sons enslaved, her infants perishing by the hatchet. Be strong! be brave! and let the ruffian power of the British king cease on this continent.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

Brigadier-General Smyth to General Peter B. Porter.

(Date torn off, 27th November, 1812?)

SIR,—Be pleased to attend to those volunteers and give them arms and necessaries, and if you can manage without sending such parties to me I will be glad, as I am excessively engaged.

(Original in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)

Major David Campbell, 12th Infantry, to General Smyth.

CAMP NIGH BUFFALO, NEW YORK,
November 27, 1812.

Major Campbell, field officer of the day, reports to Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth, commanding the United States army of the Center, that he has received no guard report from Captain Mills, commanding the guard.

Although it may not be strictly within the province of the officer of the day, yet he has been so forcibly struck with the melancholy and desponding state of the troops that he feels it a duty which he owes to the friendship of the commanding general to make him the following statement.

He has received from several captains reports or statements of the present state of their companies.

Capt. Stannard states that when he marched to Lewiston he had		92
Since that time he has lost by death	10	
Deserted	2	
Sick	30	42
		50

Having a company of fifty strong. He further states that many who are not reported sick are unfit for duty and that he is sure he will not be able to bring into the field more than thirty men.

Captain Taylor reports that he had 95 men. They were the best looking men in the regiment except Morgan's		95 men
He has sick	47	
Deserted	2	
Absent without leave	1	
Unfit for service	2	
Dead	3	
Waiters, sick	4	59
		36 men

Five of whom are waiters, and two of the five are sick, leaving thirty-four men.

Lieutenant Peyton states that when they arrived at the present encampment Captain Branch had eighty-seven able bodied, effective men, now they have only thirty-eight and six waiters, making forty-four. Forty-three therefore are either sick or dead.

Captain Morgan arrived here with ninety-nine healthy, strong men, well calculated for fatigue, since which have died..... 4
Sick..... 28

32

Leaving sixty-seven for duty. But such is the situation of those reported for duty that he does not calculate on marching more than fifty men.

Captain Sangster's company is the most healthy. He will probably march seventy or eighty men, Captain Page about thirty. Our regiment will then, when in the field, be about 264 strong. From the information of the surgeon I am well persuaded none of those reported sick will be able to march.

The surgeon has now in hospital tents at camp about forty men, most of whom he is apprehensive will not survive. The balance of the sick he is obliged to permit in their tents, having no room for them. Some have the measles, others a fever which is becoming every day more alarming.

The field officer of the day has also taken a view of the hospital tent of the 13th Regiment. Five men were lying there dead. He was told they had been dead for twenty-four hours, and were not buried for want of coffins. The sides of the tent had been forced open by the wind, and the sick men were exposed to the weather. He made inquiries as to the state of the companies, and found them more distressing than those of the 12th Regiment.

The field officer of the day begs leave to assure the General that he has no view of paralyzing the operations of the army by making this report at this important period. He will only say that on this and every other occasion he will perform his duty.

Report on State of 14th Regiment of Infantry, Commanded by Colonel Wm. H. Winder, by Capt. Wm. King, Assistant Inspector.

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES.

The Colonel and Lieut.-Colonel appear to have taken great pains to acquire a knowledge of the duties of their stations. The company officers are almost as ignorant of their duty as when they entered service. The non-commissioned officers and privates are generally only tolerably good recruits.

ARMS, ACCOUTREMENTS AND AMMUNITION.

The arms of this regiment are in infamously bad order. They appear to be old muskets that have probably been bought up at reduced prices by the contractors or other public agents, and are now placed in the hands of men who are almost within gun shot of the enemy. The inspector has no hesitation in giving it as his opinion that at least one-fifth of them are unfit for service, and he believes were they to undergo a critical inspection, a much larger proportion of them would be condemned. The cartridge boxes, bayonet scabbards and belts are good. The knapsacks are very bad. Neither gun slings, picks, nor brushes have been furnished, nor has a sufficient number of screw drivers and worms been supplied. This regiment has a large supply of ball cartridges, powder and lead, but a considerable proportion of it is very bad; some of the cartridges are said to have been made up in 1794. There is a scarcity of flints.

CAMP EQUIPAGE, HOSPITAL STORES, ETC.

The tents never were good and have been so much abused on the march to this place that they afford little protection from the weather. Camp kettles and tin pans good, and complete; axes and spades very bad. No supply of stationery. The surgeon states that he is without medicine, hospital stores, and surgical instruments.

CLOTHING AND PAY.

Though the month of October is partly gone, yet, strange to tell, this regiment has not received a single article of woolen clothing. All the men are without coats and many without shoes or stockings, and have been obliged to mount guard during the cold and stormy weather we have had for a week past barefooted and in their linen jackets and overalls. Unless immediate steps are taken to supply proper clothing the men must all all fall victims to the neglect. Paid up to the 31st of July.

PROVISIONS.

The Lieut.-Colonel states that the regiment is supplied with very bad provisions.

DISCIPLINE.

The regiment is composed entirely of recruits. They appear to be almost as ignorant of their duty as if they had never seen a camp, and scarcely know on which shoulder to carry the musket. They are mere militia, and if possible even worse, and if taken into action in their present state will prove more dangerous to themselves than to their enemy.

Camp near Buffalo, New York, Oct. 5, 1812.

Report on State of 12th Regiment of Infantry, Commanded by Colonel Thomas Parker, by Captain Wm. King, Assistant Inspector.

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES.

The character of Colonel Parker is too well known at the war office to require comment. Major Campbell will doubtless make a most valuable officer. The company officers are yet very ignorant of their duty, but they *generally* appear to be intelligent young men and *gentlemen*. The non-commissioned officers and privates are, with scarcely an exception, excellent recruits.

ARMS, ACCOUTREMENTS AND AMMUNITION.

The muskets are good but some few of them out of repair. No gun slings have been furnished, neither has there been a sufficiency of screwdrivers, worms, picks, or brushes supplied. The knapsacks are very bad as are likewise the canteens. The regiment has only about twenty-three rounds of ball cartridge and not two flints per man, and there is no ammunition at this place. The cartridges are many of them very bad.

CLOTHING AND PAY.

Though the month of October is partly gone, yet, strange to tell, this regiment has not received a single article of woolen clothing. All the men are without coats and have been obliged to mount guard during the cold and stormy weather which we have had for a week past in their linen jackets and overalls. Unless immediate steps are taken to furnish proper clothing the men must all fall victims to the neglect. Paid up to the 31st of August.

CAMP EQUIPAGE, STATIONERY, HOSPITAL STORES, ETC.

The tents are very bad. Camp kettles and tin pans good, and complete ; axes and spades bad and incomplete. No stationery.

The surgeon complains that he is without medicine, hospital stores, or surgical instruments.

PROVISIONS.

Colonel Parker states that he receives good provisions for his regiment.

DISCIPLINE.

Captain Sangster's and Page's companies are very raw and ignorant of their duty. Taking into consideration that the men are recruits and have just come off a long and fatiguing march, the state of Captain Morgan's company does him credit, but its discipline is still very imperfect.

Buffalo, N. Y. October 5, 1812.

General Smyth to Colonel Winder.

November 27th, 1812.

SIR,—Captain King will communicate the order for to-morrow. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, with the men fit for service of your regiment, will attack the guard at the bridge, take it, demolish the bridge, bring off or dismount any light artillery found, kill the horses, take the boats and return to our shore.

The Lieut.-Colonel with his party having done what is directed at the bridge, may proceed up the coast, his boats ascending the river to the Red House, to support Captain King and Lieut. Angus, or act according to circumstances.

It is not intended to keep possession. That is not to be attempted.

You will remain on the bank and give directions.

Let the wounded be hid from the public eye to-morrow.

Let a bright look-out be kept to-day and allow no one pass the bridge of Conajoquaty towards Tonawanda, except an officer of the army.

General Smyth to Captain King and Lieutenant Angus.

HEADQUARTERS, November 27, 1812.

The detachment under Captain King and Lieutenant Angus will go against the enemy's batteries to-night, and render them useless.

It is not intended they should keep possession, but they will return immediately, bringing off some prisoners and taking and destroying some light artillery and killing the horses if possible.

It is desirable that the movement of the detachment and that under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler should be so timed that they might arrive at the same instant.

James Selden, Jr., of Troy, to General Smyth.

(Extract.)

November 27th, 1812.

I am informed from an undoubted source that the British have received a reinforcement of 800 regulars at Fort George: that is, that they are not exactly at Fort George but have encamped about one and-a-half miles up Chippawa Creek, where the enemy have been building barracks. A cousin of mine brought me this information who was in the British militia service and deserted.

Captain Wm. King to General Smyth.

FORT GEORGE, Nov. 28th, 1812.

DEAR GENERAL,—At the very moment that the boats, (probably coming to my relief,) made their appearance yesterday morning, Major Ormsby, at the head of the British army, arrived and halted in front of the house into which I had thrown myself, with an intention to defend it against any force not greatly superior, but against the troops under his command it would have been folly to resist, and I surrendered myself and thirty men prisoners.

To Captains Morgan and Sproul and Lieutenant Houston, (the only three officers who remained with me,) I refer you for an account of my conduct in the attempt on the batteries, as also of the partial success of the enterprise, which, when you receive and take into consideration that the boats carried off the implements for spiking the guns and destroying the gun carriages, I flatter myself you will be convinced I did my duty as far as circumstances rendered it possible.

May I flatter myself you will exchange the prisoners of the Forty-ninth I sent over, and which exceeds in number those taken with me, for the men now here, the names of which I enclose you. For myself I am less interested, but could I be exchanged for the surgeon I sent over, it would be highly gratifying. By releasing my prisoners I could have made my escape with all my men, but I deemed the measure I pursued more honorable and therefore adopted it, and flatter myself it will meet your approbation.

I received a shot in the foot at the Red House. The wound itself is trifling, but having been obliged to march the greater part of the way from where I was taken to Chippawa, it caused considerable swelling and to-day is painful. I also received a scratch on the cheek, but fear it is not even deep enough *to leave a scar.*

A trip to Quebec at this season of the year under any circumstances would be extremely disagreeable, but particularly as a prisoner of war, therefore if possible negotiate my exchange, but whatever you may do, my dear sir, let the men taken with me be released.

Should any letters come for me under cover, please keep them until you know what is to be my fate.

I am treated with a degree of politeness that entitles the officers of this garrison to my warmest gratitude.

General Smyth to Colonel Parker.

(About 30th November, 1812.)

Will Colonel Parker be so obliging as to state the number of the force shown by the enemy on Saturday ?

ANSWER.

It is impossible for Colonel Parker to state the force of the enemy opposite the troops on Saturday, but he supposes there were not less than five or six hundred.

General Smyth to the Commanding Officer at Fort Erie.

November 28, 1812.

SIR,—You have seen a part of the hourly increasing force under my command. I propose to you the surrender of Fort Erie to spare the effusion of blood.

I take this opportunity to assure you that the devastations you have witnessed have been committed by some sailors, not under my authority and much against my will.

P. S.—I request that Captain King may be sent over on his parole according to treaty.

General Tannehill to General Smyth.

BUFFALO, 30th November, 1812.

SIR,—I am just informed by Major Mowry that you were told that I did not communicate your orders of yesterday to my brigade. Immediately after receiving them I had directed my Brigade-Major to take them to camp for the information of the brigade, but in a few minutes after I had given this order several of the field officers who had been ordered to command the men who had volunteered to cross into Canada came into my quarters, who each individually read the orders. I ordered one of the field officers to the navy yard to carry that part of your orders respecting the boats into effect. I beg leave to refer you to Major Douglass for a more minute detail.

General Smyth to the Deputy-Quartermaster.

HEADQUARTERS, BLACK ROCK, November 30, 1812.

The Deputy-Quartermaster will have four days' provisions for 2,500 men at the navy yard this evening by four o'clock. The liquor is not to be omitted.

REPLY.

The contractor shall be called. Transportation is in readiness; no delay.

JAMES THOMAS, Deputy-Quartermaster.

Colonel Schuyler to General Smyth.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Dec. 1st, 1812.

SIR,—In conformity with your desire communicated to me by the Brigade-Major, I have the honor to state that I was not able yesterday morning to parade more than two hundred and fifty men exclusive of twenty-one men detailed the preceding night for guard. The number marched to the river was two hundred and seventy-one.

Statement of Bill Sherman.

Bill Sherman, a native of Rhode Island but a resident of Canada for the last 20 years, having his family settled in the town of Barton, informs that he quitted Upper Canada in April last, and in consequence of the war being declared could not return, although he repeatedly applied to obtain a permit to pass over, he therefore took advantage of a favorable moment and made his escape in a boat from Buffalo on the night of the 2nd instant. He states that he thinks there are about 4,000 regular troops and have been as many militia, but the latter has been much reduced of late. Deponent says that great discontent prevails amongst the troops; that on Tuesday last 2,000 were embarked on board 113 boats; that in a short time afterward General Smyth ordered them out of the boats, which caused much ferment and dissatisfaction. General Smyth then said he would explain further would they meet him at Cook's tavern in Buffalo. They accordingly did, when General Smyth told them he could not depend on the militia and had not regular troops sufficient. Indignant at this, they fired twice at the General and shot the belt from his side at camp. The militia and volunteers then offered 200 dollars for his person, and fired off all their ammunition and disembodied themselves, that is, the greater part made their way home. They complain of having no hospital stores or comforts. They are still under canvas and have no barracks to retire to. From what he heard he does not think they will again try to cross this winter, but should they he suspects John Miller's as the most likely place where the attempt will be made.

There have been disturbances at Buffalo, and in consequence the editor of the paper had ceased to publish the *Gazette.* He informs that four men have been shot for desertion, that such has been the general feeling for the last four weeks that unless a change takes place they will have fighting enough amongst themselves without crossing into Canada. He mentions that General Porter, (*alias* Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations,) was embarked with the troops on Tuesday last for the purpose of crossing over.

Taken before me this 3rd day of December, 1812.

THOS. EVANS,
Major of Brigade.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Statement of Joseph Van Horne.

Joseph Van Horne of the 23rd Regiment says that he has been about three weeks on the lines and induced to desert from want of provisions and being too much exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and states that a great many of their regulars are anxious to desert to the British if opportunity is offered; knows nothing further than what has passed at his post in camp above Squaw Island, but that Colonel Winder commands at Black Rock and there are not more than three thousand regulars in the lines, composing part of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 23rd Regiments, and that they intended an attack about three or four nights ago. Men embarked for this purpose in 50 or 60 boats and were ordered back about daylight, but does not know for what cause. They had with them six 6-pounders, without horses. Afterwards part of the sailors and all of the militia and volunteers went away, he supposes for the winter only, and that his colonel, captain and lieutenant were sent recruiting and have taken sergeants with them this morning. He says that as far as he could learn no other attack is intended, and that last night some of the boats were moved up the creek which is situated there.

John Killem, of the 23rd Regiment, being also examined cannot give any further information.

H. C. SAUNDERS,,
Captain 41st Regiment.
5th December, 1812.

Colonel Bisshopp.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Statement of David Harvey.

David Harvey, a soldier in the United States army, a prisoner, and born in the State of Connecticut, informs and offers to swear to the following facts, viz.:

That the enemy have about 3,000 regular troops one mile and-a-half in rear of Black Rock, under camp at a place called Judge Granger's, where the General, (Smyth) his aide-de-camp and several officers of rank live. That their camp is unhealthy: that they die from 8 to 9 daily: that the place of burial is about 50 rods back of the camp and that two acres are covered with the buried dead, which he states are put into holes two or three of which are made every day, and into each put two to four dead men. The doctors say the disease is as bad as the plague. The patients are first taken with a pain in the head and in an hour and-a-half or two hours afterwards invariably die. Besides this disease he mentions their being afflicted with the pleurisy, dysentery and measles. He says in fact there are very few hale men among them, and if something is not done immediately they will all die. They have frequently expressed their discontent, and once stacked their arms, swore they would go home, and if their officers resisted would put them to death. Whenever they can desert they do. Four for desertion and one for mutiny have lately been shot at the camp, which nearly caused a rebellion. At Buffalo, in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia there have lately been the most alarming riots, particularly in the latter, where an officer and some soldiers were hacked and burnt to death. The soldiers are not allowed to see a single paper, but he understands the Federalists are burning the houses of the Democrats and are determined to have peace. They were the other day called in to quell a severe disturbance at Buffalo, where the people said they considered those on this side of the river as their brothers and sisters, with whom they had always been at peace, and were determined to remain so. A proclamation has been lately issued by General Smyth, telling the soldiers what a disgraceful thing it would be should England hear of their army being in a state of mutiny, and calling upon them to prevent it spreading abroad, as after declaring war against so powerful a nation as England, should it be known they would stand the scorn and derision of the nations of the earth. He says there are furnished from their camps 100 men, which are stationed near Black Rock, and two divisions of 500 men each back of Squaw Island for the protection of their boats, and three 18-pounders placed in batteries. About 150 men are at Schlosser and 150 at Fort Niagara. There are also in a field on the road between Black Rock and Buffalo

about 5 or 600 militia who will not act. The numbers of boats fit to be used about 40, six or eight of which are scows for the purpose of conveying their artillery. He says, that was the British army to cross over one-half of theirs would join them and the others run away. That he had heard his officers say, "what a hardy set of men the British soldiers were, and that they did not know their own strength; they would soon put them (the Americans) to their tramps." He says that Captain King is considered their great hero or rising leader, and looked up to by the soldiers more than the General is. He says Captain Ogilvie and several officers came across on the 28th, altho' on their parole of honor, and on finding their situation perilous, retreated to the boats, observing that should they be taken they would have their necks stretched. He says Captain Ogilvie has been for some time living with General Smyth, and is considered a brave and determined man. The army had received no pay for four months, and they were told that application had been made to France for money, but that France could not spare any, her own wants being so great. It was expected there would be a Federal Administration, and the whole of the soldiers are rejoicing at the prospect of peace with England. He mentions that Sergeant Helmbold, now a prisoner, killed a sergeant of the 49th Regiment after being wounded and a prisoner, at a time when the deceased was begging for God's sake to spare his life. Deponent declares his preference to be shot by the British rather than return to the United States. That he has a brother living in the Province, and that he is willing to do whatever is required rather than again become the victim of rascality and tyranny. Deponent says further that the boats were fired into before they landed, that upwards of 20 men were killed and thrown into the river, that altho' the captain and sergeants say they had only 150 men, they had more than 600; that near 60 had gone into the woods on this side to avoid going back, on which Captain King swore more than half their own army were Tories.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

General Smyth to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp.

SIR,—You have seen a part of the hourly increasing force under my command. I propose to you the surrender of Fort Erie to spare the effusion of blood. I take this opportunity of assuring you that the devastations you have witnessed have been committed

by some sailors not under my authority and very much against my will.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ALEXANDER SMYTH,
Brig.-Genl.
28th Novr., 1812.

P. S.—I request Captain King may be sent over on parole, according to treaty.

A. S.

To The Commanding Officer
at Fort Erie.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Memorandum on General Smyth's Letter, by Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop.

Captain Fitzgerald, 49th Regiment, was sent with my answer, refusing to surrender, and likewise to learn from General Smyth what treaty he meant, as I had no orders to deliver up prisoners or knowledge of any such treaty having taken place.

CECIL BISSHOP,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Statement of Lieut. Thomas Lamont Relative to the Action of the 28th, Near Fort Erie.

Between two and three o'clock in the morning one of the men came into my room and reported that boats of the enemy were crossing. I immediately turned out and perceived several boats approaching the beach opposite to my quarters (the Red House.) I formed my men with the utmost expedition and approached the boats, which had gained the shore, and fired a volley into them. (To the best of my recollection) while reloading I was charged by a party of the enemy, who had landed, and driven back to the Red House, when I, with much difficulty, rallied my men. I now saw a large party of the enemy advancing on me, upon which I fired a volley and charged them. This drove them back to their boats and I was informed that a number of the boats pushed off for their shore. I formed my men again at the Red House. A large party was now observed coming up on my left. They had on blanket

coats. Some of my men said they were militia and Indians coming up to our support. I, however, sent two men to reconnoitre, who returned and informed me that they were militia. As the party approached me they fired a volley and charged. I was wounded in the thigh and fell, and my men retreated, two of them conveying me towards our left battery. When I had nearly reached it a party of the enemy, which had possessed themselves of it, advanced and fired. I was here taken prisoner and lodged in the battery, the gun of which was dismounted. I remained here until about midday, when I was put into a wagon by our own people and conveyed to Fort Erie. My force consisted of about thirty men.

(Sgd) T. LAMONT,
Lieut., 49th Regiment.

Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

CHIPPAWA, 30th November, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of reporting to Your Excellency that very early in the morning of the 28th an attack was made on my batteries opposite to Black Rock. They were wrested from us for a time by superior numbers, but Major Ormsby of the 49th Regiment, with a body of troops from Fort Erie, having formed a junction with Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop, who had moved up with great celerity from Chippawa with reinforcements, those of the enemy who had not retired to their own shore, amounting to nearly forty, were made prisoners, with Captain King, who had commanded in the attack.

On receiving information of the attack I went up, having previously ordered a movement of some troops to strengthen those posts from which reinforcements had been detached to the right flank. On my arrival there I found the enemy in great force, of which he seemed to make an ostentatious display, some on shore and some in boats, and perhaps with the hope of giving effect to a summons which Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop had received to surrender Fort Erie. When I approached the ground opposite to Black Rock several large bodies of the enemy were seen moving downwards. I suspected their intention to be either to advance from the bottom of Squaw Island in aid of a direct attack above it in front of Black Rock or that a design against this post or some lower point was in contemplation. I thereupon caused some detachments I had passed on the road to be halted opposite to the foot of Squaw Island, and I remained there until night approached, when I set off for this post.

I continue here as being a central situation in which I can quickly receive intelligence from either extremity of the line.

It appears that in the affair of the 28th the loss on our part, if not the early success of the enemy, was chiefly owing to his having been mistaken for friendly succour coming from some neighboring quarter.

Captain Fitzgerald, of the 49th Regiment, was employed to carry to Black Rock Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop's answer to the summons he received. He saw Brigadier-General Smyth, who desired him to survey his force. He counted fifty-six large boats with men in them, and there was a great number of men on shore, in all he thought about five thousand, and he saw six scows with a field piece in each and horses with every appurtenance for field movements.

I have not yet received Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop's official report nor the return of the killed, wounded and missing. I wait for them to despatch an express.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop deserves high commendation for the spirit and activity he displayed, and great credit is due the officers and men who acted under his orders.

It was unfortunate for the service that those valuable officers, Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery and Lieut. Lamont of the 49th Regiment, were so early disabled, otherwise the most beneficial effects might have been expected from their exertions.

Lieut.-Colonel Cecil Bisshop to Major-General R. H. Sheaffe.

FRENCHMAN'S CREEK, NEAR FORT ERIE,
December 1st, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the morning of the 28th ulto., between four and five o'clock, a firing was heard at Chippawa on the right of the line under my command. I proceeded instantly in that direction, having given orders for Captain Kerby of the militia artillery with a light six-pounder, Captain Saunders's detachment of the 41st Regiment, and Capt. Hamilton's company of the 2nd Lincoln Regiment to march under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Clark to reinforce the right. On my arrival within six miles of Fort Erie I overtook Major Hatt, of the 5th Lincoln Regiment, with the militia under his command, intending to march to oppose the enemy, the 49th Regiment and the light company of the 41st Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant McIntyre, having retreated to this position.

Major Ormsby informs me that about two o'clock in the morning the enemy, consisting of about four hundred men, many of whom were sailors, effected a landing at the Red House, opposite the quarters of Lieut. Lamont, 49th Regiment, and succeeded in gaining possession of the batteries after having been most gallantly and warmly opposed by Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery, commanding two field pieces, and Lieut. Lamont with a party consisting of about 30 men only, the remainder of the detachment being stationed at the two batteries on his right. Both these officers were severely wounded, the former taken prisoner. Captain Bostwick, commanding the Norfolk Militia stationed at the ferry, on hearing the report of musquetry immediately ordered the men under his command to form and marched to the point of attack ; after having exchanged a few rounds with the enemy and finding he was of superior force, he retired. Lieut. Bryson, of the militia artillery, finding the enemy gaining possession of the batteries and being unable to defend himself against such a superior force, spiked the 24-pounder in the half-moon battery, prior to its falling into the hands of the enemy.

The sentries at Fort Erie hearing a firing in the direction of the batteries, Major Ormsby marched at two o'clock with the detachment of the 49th Regiment, consisting of eighty men, to meet the enemy and support the batteries, leaving Captain Whelan, according to directions I had before given in case of an attack with the light company of the Newfoundland Regiment, to defend that fortress.

Major Ormsby advanced towards the batteries by the back road to support Lieut. Lamont, but having met with Lieut. Bryson, of the Militia Artillery, who informed him that the enemy were in possession of the batteries, it being then dark he changed his direction and moved to the right along the front road below the batteries, with a view of falling in with some of Lieut. Lamont's detachment, and likewise another party on the left stationed opposite to the end of Squaw Island, commanded by Lieut. Bartley, but who, it appears, had moved from thence early in the morning to the left, when the enemy had likewise landed their troops opposite to this place. Lieut. Bartley attacked the enemy, consisting of about 250 men, and kept up a fire upon the boats for about 15 or 20 minutes, when he observed a party coming towards him which he took to be our militia, but finding them to be a party of the enemy, and a number of his men being killed, wounded or missing, he retired, crossing Frenchman's Creek at the mill, a little above which he joined Major Ormsby having only 16 or 17 men left.

Major Ormsby, whose detachment continued their march

towards Frenchman's Creek, was fired on from a house above the bridge by a party of the enemy, and having returned their fire with two or three rounds from his detachment, he succeeded in passing the bridge, altho' partly destroyed by the enemy. He here halted to ascertain the force opposed to him, but as it still continued very dark he could neither see the enemy nor discover his movements.

He then proceeded about a mile further on the road downwards, when he was joined by Lieut. McIntyre of the light infantry, 41st Regiment, and remained there until daylight, when I arrived and immediately advanced with the whole of the force here, concentrated under Major Ormsby and Major Hatt, of the 5th Lincoln Militia, having under his command the different companies of militia on this line, consisting of about 300 men, towards this place, with a light six-pounder, where we took Captain King of the United States Infantry and about 30 rank and file prisoners. The enemy at this time were crossing the river with a considerable number of boats, having about 30 men in each, making towards the land. I ordered the six-pounder to open upon them, which was ably directed by Bombardier Jackson of the Royal Artillery, and acted with much execution. I formed the line on the bank, Major Ormsby and the 49th being on the right. After a few rounds from our musketry, the enemy retired to the American shore behind Squaw Island, having sustained considerable loss.

The Indian warriors under Major Givins having heard the report of our fire immediately joined us. I then marched with the light company of the 41st to ascertain the number and position of the enemy in our front, in which movement I received the greatest assistance from Major Givins and the Indians under his command. The enemy had dismounted the guns and left the batteries. I ordered the line to advance and took up a position in their rear, waiting his further operations. I had been joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Clark and his detachment from Chippawa. Capt. Whelan still continued in Fort Erie and had not been attacked during the absence of Major Ormsby and his detachment. The enemy kept up a strong fire on our lines from their batteries till one o'clock, when a flag of truce came over to summons Fort Erie and to demand the surrender of that post to the American army. A copy of General Smyth's letter accompanies this despatch. I sent Captain Fitzgerald of the 49th Regiment with my answer, which was that the troops under my command, being sufficient to repulse any attack from the enemy and having received reinforcements from below, I should not agree to his request. The six-pounder taken by the enemy in the morning, as likewise the three-pounders, were found without having sustained the least injury. Great credit is due to

Captain Kerby and the artillery for their exertions in getting up the guns on the batteries, which by the morning of the 30th we succeeded in, and have been ever since in expectation of an attack, but which the enemy do not think proper to make. To Captain Kerby, Lieuts. Bryson and Ball of the Militia Artillery and Bombardier Jackson of Royal Artillery, the greatest credit is due, as well as to Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Q. M. General of Militia, and Lieut. Barnard, Acting Staff Adjutant.

I have also derived the greatest assistance from Lieut.-Colonel Clark, commanding the militia, Major Ormsby, commanding a detachment of the 49th Regiment, and Major Hatt of the 5th Lincoln Militia, and all officers in command of corps and companies under my orders.

The Norfolk Militia, under Captain Bostwick, gave a strong proof of the valor which has uniformly distinguished the militia of this country when called into action. I must likewise mention the names of Captain Whelan of the Newfoundland Regiment, Captains Chambers and Saunders of the 41st, Captain Fitzgerald, 49th, and Captain Hamilton of the 2nd Lincoln Militia, who first apprised me of the enemy's movements.

I enclose a list of the killed, wounded and missing. I have not been able to ascertain the loss of the enemy, but from the numbers left on the field and the boats that were sunk it must have been very great.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Memorandum by Captain Abram Rapelje.

1 Richard Drake.
2 John Butler.
3 Elijah Williams.
4 Evi Adams.
5 Albert Berdan.
6 George Sergent.
7 Henry Medcalf.
8 Pinkney Mabee.
9 James Matthews.
10 Jacob Berdan.

Those whose names are above mentioned joined the Artillery on the 23rd November, 1812.

FORT ERIE, 28th November, 1812.

The Americans came over with a large number of boats. By examination of a prisoner we took, says they (the Americans) could not collect more than 3,000 men on the frontier; that 800 or 1,000 attempted to land on the 28th inst. but could not effect their purpose, and they suffered severely by the brave few that opposed them, who were rightly but few in number in comparison to the Americans, who made the best of their way back with their shattered boats after leaving a number dead and some prisoners, perhaps 50.

List of killed, wounded and missing belonging to Captain A. Rapelje's company on 28th November, 1812, at Fort Erie:

1 John Wyckoff, killed.
2 John Bonnet, wounded, badly.
3 David Conrad, wounded slightly.
4 John Conrad, wounded slightly.
5 Reuben Allward, wounded severely.
6 Michael Croson, wounded badly.
7 James McQueen, wounded slightly.
8 John Mathews, wounded badly.
1 John Butler, missing.
2 Mathias Woodley, missing.
3 Wm. Sells, missing.
4 Samuel Troup, missing.

(From a Note Book in Possession of Captain J. G. Spain.)

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, CHIPPAWA,
1st December, 1812.

Lieutenant Alexander McKee having tendered his resignation as lieutenant in Captain Powell's artillery company to His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, he is pleased to accept therof and to direct that his rank and pay, &c., as such shall accordingly cease after the 2nd of this month.

By order,
THOMAS EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

Lieut.-Colonel McFeeley to General Smyth.

FORT NIAGARA, December 1st, 1812.

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you by Ensign Culverson of my regiment, (who takes charge of six deserters, arrived here this morning from the Canada side near the Thirty Mile Creek) of the situation of the force here.

By the different reports of this morning compared with those of several mornings back, I find that there has crept into this garrison a dreadful contagion, which upon an average carries off between three and five a day.

Probable Situation of Troops during the Winter, 1812, on the Niagara Frontier.

Buffalo, about	600
Black Rock, about	400
Williamsville, about	1300
Fort Niagara, about	300
Fort Grey, unknown	
Total	2600

(American State Papers.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 1st December, 1812.)

PROGRESS OF THE WAR ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIERS.

From the time the armistice expired until Saturday last the weather, with the exception of one day, was inclement and extremely unfavorable to military movements and warlike operations. However, on Friday last a movement being resolved upon, the troops removed from their several encampments and concentrated their forces in the vicinity of Black Rock. On Saturday morning last about 3 o'clock a party of about 200 sailors and soldiers, under Captain King, made a descent on the enemy's shore, attaked and carried three several batteries, dismounted and spiked their cannon and destroyed gun carriages. The most determined, intrepid bravery was displayed upon this occasion. About 30 prisoners, among whom were two British officers, were captured. A large two-story house was burned, in which was a quantity of ammunition. A barn near the house was also fired and consumed, in which it is said were the enemy's light artillery; several horses,

already harnessed, were destroyed. The loss of the British in killed and wounded is uncertain—it is rated at between 20 and 30. Our loss consists of 4 or 5 killed and say 20 wounded, Captains King and Dox taken prisoners, the latter wounded and retaken. Sailing-master Watts was killed. The party returned to Black Rock about 6 o'clock. During this daring enterprise there were a few cannon shot fired from our batteries.

A short time after this achievement Colonel Winder with a column of 300 regulars from his regiment embarked (whether with an intention to cross the river or to reconnoitre, we know not,) at the mouth of Conjockety Creek behind Squaw Island, and after passing the foot of the island dropped a few minutes down the river on the enemy's shore, when the boats were furiously attacked with grape and musquetry from a considerable force, which had lain in ambush. The fire was very spiritedly returned from the boats for several minutes. Seeing, however, the danger of effecting a landing against a superior force on shore possessing every advantage, the boats returned with a small loss in killed and wounded.

A detachment of Colonel Porter's light artillery had now passed over to Squaw Island where two pieces played upon the enemy with some effect. From an early hour in the morning until nearly twelve o'clock the several batteries at Black Rock, mounting 24, 18, 12, and 6-pounders, played upon the opposite shore. The enemy returned but a few shot from a 6-pounder, which had escaped spiking.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock three sailors embarked in a boat, passed over to the enemy's shore and set fire to the dwelling house of B. Hardison and to the house and store of Mr. Douglas, which were consumed. After remaining upon that shore about two hours they returned with a boat loaded with articles taken from the houses. We understand that this act was unauthorized.

From 7 until 10 or 11 in the morning there was a constant embarkation of troops at the navy yard, and before the hour of 11 there were about 60 boats loaded and stationed in shore, awaiting the signal to make a descent. The day was fine, the troops were in excellent spirits; no opposing force *appeared* on the shore. A flag was now sent by General Smyth to the British commander. The flag returned. The troops in the boats were ordered to debark and the volunteers who were in readiness for embarkation were ordered back to their respective encampments. Since which period several movements have taken place, but as we are in possession of no official statements we can at present give no further account; perhaps, indeed, hereafter some satisfactory statement may appear.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Colonel Wm. H. Winder to Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth.

Black Rock, Dec. 7th, 1812.

Sir,—I should before this have communicated the circumstances relative to the two enterprises of the night of the 28th, had not your presence enabled you at once to learn the general result so far as was necessary to predicate other movements on, and had not my incessant occupation since rendered it almost impossible to find the requisite time. I deem it, however, my duty in justice to the officers and men who formed a part of that expedition, to present to you such particulars as I have obtained from those engaged in it, which have been confirmed by the prisoners taken.

Agreeably to your orders of the 27th, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler embarked with about 200 of the 14th Regiment in 11 boats, and Captain King of the army and Lieut. Angus of the navy embarked with 150 soldiers and 70 sailors in ten boats, between twelve and one o'clock of the morning of the 28th. The embarkation of both detachments was made with exemplary silence, order and promptitude.

The detachment of King having to ascend the river against the current to arrive at the point of attack, I directed him to move on first so that the detachment under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, having in some degree the advantage of the current, each party might arrive as nearly as possible at the point of attack at the same time.

The detachment of King and Angus was discovered by the sentinels some time before it landed, and was assailed by a discharge of small arms from the sentinels and one or two discharges from a field piece at the Red House. Four boats out of ten nevertheless resolutely landed. The sailors under Lieut. Angus, with their characteristic impetuosity, rushed into the hottest fire before the infantry could be formed after landing, and sustained considerable injury. Captain King, however, seconded by Captains Morgan and Sproull, formed the infantry which did land as expeditiously as possible, and in conjunction with Lieut. Angus, Volunteer Swartwout and the brave naval officers soon overcame all resistance there. He then turned to the left and proceeded to storm the enemy's lower battery, which was vigorously assailed and soon carried and the cannon spiked. He then proceeded to the next battery above, which the trepidation of the enemy had by this time abandoned, and spiked the cannon there and broke the carriages. In the meantime Lieutenant Angus and Volunteer Swartwout and their party of sailors had spiked the field pieces at the Red House and had thrown them, together with two caissons, into the river, which, having accomplished, he returned to the place of landing,

where, finding only four boats and being ignorant that the others had not landed, and seeing nothing of the infantry, he concluded that either they had been made prisoners or had deserted him, and in consequence immediately embarked his men with his wounded prisoner, Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery, and returned round the lower end of Squaw Island to the navy yard. In consequence of this unfortunate mistake, which arose from the failure of six of the boats to make their landing, Captain King with Captains Sproull and Morgan and about 60 men were left on the other shore.

Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler with his detachment had in the meantime proceeded down the river to attack and destroy the party stationed at Frenchman's Creek and the bridge over it.

The discovery of the party under Captain King and Lieutenant Angus at so early a period, and the consequent firing, had alarmed the sentinels and a party of the enemy near Frenchman's Creek, and Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler immediately pushed to strike the shore at the nearest point, which in the want of knowledge of the localities of the place and the darkness of the night occasioned him to land from a quarter to half a mile above the bridge, not without having received the fire of the sentinels and a small party and having a picket-guard of about 30 men of the 49th drawn up and advancing upon them at the moment of landing. Four of his boats, misled by the darkness of the night or the inexperienced rowers being unable to force them across the current, fell below, near the bridge, and were forced to return by a party stationed there.

The companies of Captains Montgomery and Lane and a part of Sullivan's company under Lieut. Kearney, however, effected a landing with Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler. The boat in which Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler was, with Captain Lane and 20 men, first reached the shore. These were formed as well and as quickly as possible, were ordered to fire and charge the enemy, which was done with much gallantry, but not without some confusion inseparable from darkness, in the face of an enemy ready to receive them, of whose numbers they were ignorant and by men and officers for the first time engaged in a contest. The exertions of Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler to keep his party in order threw him somewhat in advance, and he was saved from the bayonet of one of the enemy by his presence of mind and promptitude in shooting him down with his pistol. An encouraging command at the same moment brought the bayonets of his party in contact with those of the enemy and they fled with precipitation leaving several dead and two prisoners. The pursuit was pressed to the bridge. Several of the axes were in the boats which had not landed and the necessity of encountering the enemy at the moment of landing occasioned those that were in the boats

to be left. A party, however, was detached under Lieut. Waring to break up the bridge by any means which they could find, and about one-third of the planks were actually removed.

At this time all was silent with the parties under Captain King and Lieut. Angus, and Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler supposed them either repelled or successful. At this moment Lieut. Woodward, commanding the boat-guard, made a corporal and a private of the 49th prisoner and learned that the whole force from Fort Erie was coming down upon them and that 200 were within a few minutes' march of the boats. He immediately despatched a messenger to inform Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, who formed his party and hastened up to the boats, where he discovered a considerable party of the enemy formed. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, by a feint in giving the title of field officers to captains and battalions to companies in loud orders, endeavored to alarm the enemy by the apprehension of being out-numbered, ordered a fire and then a charge—the enemy fled without giving a chance to reach him.

The order being not to attempt to hold possession, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler deemed it advisable to embark his troops to return, judging, as the fact has since been ascertained, that the whole force from Fort Erie was approaching.

The success of Captain King and Lieut. Angus had led the enemy to suppose that a large force was landed with them, and instead therefore of coming down the river they passed through the fields between the batteries and the woods and came out on the river road between the batteries and Frenchman's Creek, probably without knowing that Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler's detachment had landed below, and when they found their advance dispersed by what from Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler's feint they supposed a large party, they again turned off to the left through the fields, passed round the bridge and concentrated their force below.

Had Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler known that the party of Captain King had been successful, a juncture might have been made and everything accomplished. But he was justified in supposing that as the enemy's force had passed down by the point of King's attack he had been beaten off or taken, and that under that supposition it therefore became necessary for him immediately to embark.

Captain King with Morgan and Sproull, after accomplishing their object and finding the boats gone, proceeded down the river and near Frenchman's Creek found two of the enemy's boats, in which Morgan and Sproull with about half the detachment and their prisoners embarked, Captain King gallantly refusing to leave the shore unless all his men could accompany him.

Lieut. Waring with 8 men employed in breaking up the bridge

were left, notwithstanding Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, in the most pointed manner, inquired several times after the party were on board and before they put off whether every one was on board. You know the manner in which I saved him the next morning and of the manner in which my attempt to land with the 14th and part of the 23rd was frustrated.

I cannot close this communication without expressing my high sense of the cool, intrepid and collected manner in which Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler and the officers and men under them conducted themselves in this their first essay in practical war, under circumstances well calculated to have confused, distracted and intimidated veteran soldiers.

Captain King has placed his gallantry and magnanimity in a conspicuous point of view by his storming the enemy's batteries and refusing to desert his men.

Lieut. Angus and such of his officers and men as landed maintained the high character of the American tars. He was unfortunately and necessarily misled by the absence of so many boats, and from this cause it arose that we remained ignorant of the actual state of the enemy's shore until it was too late to profit by it. I think, however, there is no man who would not have acted under similar circumstances as Lieut. Angus did.

Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler has shown by this night that he is adequate to command in very trying circumstances, and Capt. King has maintained most fully his character for gallantry and courage.

I cannot pretend to particularize merits of others, where all who landed under the respective command of these gentlemen conducted themselves in the handsomest manner.

(From the Independent Chronicle of Boston, 14th December, 1812.)

CANANDAIGUA, December 1.

From the best information there are at least 7,000 men at Buffalo, Black Rock and the Navy Yard within a distance of three miles; at Schlosser and Lewiston there are at least 500; at Youngstown or the Meadows about 300; at Fort Niagara 800, including militia but excluding volunteers. On the 22nd many of the volunteers had arrived and the road from Buffalo to Genesee was lined with them. Among others we particularly noticed Capt. Godfrey's company from Genesee, Captain Roseburgh's band of fine resolute men from Sparta, Captain Rochester's band of similar men from Dansville and Steuben, Captain Griffin's True Blues from several parts of this county, a detachment from the town of Ontario, a

number under Colonel Howell from Lyons, besides great numbers of individuals marching on without being attached. Sixty men from Seneca county passed through this village on Friday last on the same business. Companies are forming and men are moving from all quarters in the same direction.

(From file in the Lenox Library, New York.)

Colonel Winder to General Smyth.

CAMP, CANAJOQUATY CREEK, Dec. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,—I have understood that the 12th and 20th Regiments have obtained permission to retire into the interior for the purpose of taking up their quarters for the winter. If a permission of that kind can be granted to any of the corps, I pray you to extend that indulgence to the 14th. They have encountered a series of fatigue and hardships so greatly beyond that of any other corps that they not only have a claim to be relieved, but the last eight or ten days have so shattered the regiment, both officers and men, that repose and comfort are absolutely necessary to them.

With respect to myself, if you should deem my services of importance anywhere I shall cheerfully yield them, but I beseech you to permit the balance of the regiment to retire into the interior, where vegetables and other food suited to recruit them can be procured.

I was extremely anxious to visit home this winter to have completed the adjustment of my private affairs, upon which, in the event of my death, a family will depend for a very slender pittance. But if objects of public service can be more effectually accomplished by my remaining here, in your judgment, I shall with the utmost cheerfulness devote myself to the accomplishment of your wishes.

What order will be taken with the 23rd? I have only understood that they were connected with my command in the field.

I called at General Tannehill's quarters after I saw you, but he was sick in bed and no meeting had or was to take place so far as I could hear.

(American State Papers.)

Colonel Parker to General Smyth.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, 2nd Dec., 1812.

There were marched from this encampment on the morning of the 30th November, 1812, to the River Niagara the following force

belonging to the consolidated 12th and 20th United States Infantry, viz. :

1 colonel, 1 lieut.-colonel, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon, 4 captains, 3 first lieutenants, 6 second lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 12 sergeants, 21 corporals, and 181 privates.

Return of Troops of Fourteenth Regiment Embarked on 29th November, 1812.

November 29, 1812.

Fourteenth Regiment, 4 companies	221
Twenty-Third Regiment, 3 companies	79
Total officers and men	300

December 1, 1812.

Fourteenth Regiment, 4 companies	145
Twenty-Third Regiment, 3 companies	82
Total officers and men	227

CHAS. G. BOERSTLER,
Lieut.-Colonel, 14th Infantry.

Return of Men Under Command of Lieut.-Colonel McClure, who were Embarked on Tuesday, 1st December, 1812.

Total, 20 commissioned officers, 276 non-commissioned officers and privates.

(American State Papers.)

Josiah Robinson to Colonel S. Van Rensselaer.

BUFFALO, Dec. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,— . . . . . .

. . . . . .

That pompous proclamation brought volunteers from every quarter, and on the 27th November ult. his forces were more than eight thousand men, and his boats would carry three thousand eight hundred men, besides eleven pieces of artillery, with as many ammunition waggons and forty-eight horses. On the night of the same day three hundred sailors and regulars crossed the river, spiked all the British cannon, took thirty-one prisoners and returned. The morning following, Col. Winder with his regiment crossed the

river and were repulsed by about three hundred British. By twelve o'clock all the boats were filled and passed up to the Rock, and nothing to obstruct their landing in Canada but a six-pounder which did them no injury, neither could bear on them longer by means of our batteries. At the same time three sailors crossed the river, set two houses on fire, plundered a store, burned it, shot fowls, ducks and pigs, without opposition from the enemy, who, in attempting to approach, were driven back by the well directed fire from our batteries. Nothwithstanding the ardor of the troops to pass the river they were ordered ashore (to disembark and dine) and a *flag* was sent to Canada.

Yesterday at three o'clock a. m. the troops were again ordered to embark, the American flag was raised with everything ready for a descent, when, lo! the coward appeared, and the remainder cannot be described but by the fallen countenances of the officers and the fury of the privates. . . . .

. . . . . .

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 283-4.)

General Order.

The pleasure of His Excellency the President of the United States of America in relation to the case of Elijah Clark, who was tried and convicted of being a spy, under and by virtue of the General Order of August 1st ulto., and whose execution was suspended by General Order of August 13th ulto., having been this day made known to the Major-General, through the Hon. the Secretary at War, therefore in conformity to the decision of His Excellency the President it is hereby ordered " that the said Elijah Clark, being considered a citizen of the United States and not liable to be tried by a Court Martial as a spy, therefore unless he should be arraigned by the civil courts for *treason* or some *minor crime* under the laws of the State of New York, he must be discharged."

All officers and military authorities whatever in whose custody the said Clark shall or may happen to be for the cause aforesaid are hereby ordered to release him from his said arrest as a spy.

Lieut.-Colonel Philetus Swift is particularly charged with the execution of this order.

By order of Major-General Hall.

GEO. HOSMER, A. D. C.

Bloomfield, December 2nd, 1812.

(From the New York Statesman, 1st January, 1813.)

BUFFALO, December 2nd, 1812.

To General Alexander Smyth:

SIR,—The subscribers are a committee from the patriotic citizens of the western counties of this state, who have turned out (bearing all the inclemency of the season) in pursuance of your proclamation of the 12th November last. They confidently expected that your army would have invaded Canada as you promised they should. The events of the last week have thrown the country into a state of almost total distraction.

As citizens who have used our utmost exertions on this critical occasion for the prosecution of the war against our enemy, and affecting the happiness and quietude of our country, we think it our duty to propound to you certain questions, your answers to which will enable us to effect the great ends we have in view:

Why did you not cross the river on Saturday when every obstacle was removed and a landing might have been effected without the loss of a man?

Had you not a force superior to that of the enemy and assurances of a powerful reinforcement on the same day? If you had not why did you make the second attempt by again embarking your troops on Tuesday, and by again disembarking them disappoint the expectations of the brave men under your command and throw them into a state of disorder approaching to mutiny?

Do you contemplate any further operations this fall? If you do why order the arms of the brave volunteers to be returned?

GEORGE MCCLURE,
LEWIS BIRDSALL,
JOHN GRIFFIN,
WM. B. ROCHESTER.

[*Delivered by General George McClure.*]

Brigadier-General Smyth to Messrs. George McClure, Lewis Birdsall, John Griffin, and Wm. B. Rochester, a Committee of Patriotic Citizens of the Western Counties of New York.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
December 3rd, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,—Your letter of the 2nd December is before me, and I answer it in the following manner:

On the 26th October I ordered that twenty scows should be prepared for the transportation of artillery and cavalry, and put the carpenters of the army upon that duty.

By the 26th of November ten scows were completed, and by bringing some boats from Lake Ontario above the Falls the number was increased to seventy.

And I had on the 12th November issued an address to the men of New York, and perhaps 300 had arrived in Buffalo. I presumed that the regular troops and the volunteers under Colonels Swift and McClure would furnish 2,500 fit for duty, and of General Tannehill's brigade, (from Pennsylvania) reporting a total of 1,650, as many as 413 had volunteered to cross into Canada. My orders were "to cross with 3,000 men at once." I deemed myself ready to fulfil them.

Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th November, I sent over two parties, one under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, the other under Captain King, with whom Lieut. Angus of the navy, at the head of a body of seamen, united. The first was to capture a guard and destroy a bridge about five miles below Fort Erie, the second party were to take and render useless the cannon of the enemy's batteries and some pieces of light artillery. The first party failed to destroy the bridge, the second, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated by some misapprehension. Lieut. Angus, the seamen and part of the troops returned with all the boats, while Capt. King, Captain Morgan, Captain Sproule, Lieut. Houston and about 60 men remained. The party thus reduced, attacked, took and rendered unserviceable two of the enemy's batteries, captured 34 prisoners, found two boats in which Captain King sent the prisoners and about half his party with the other officers, he himself remaining with thirty men whom he could not abandon.

Orders had been given that all the troops in the neighborhood should march at reveille to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment sent in the night having returned and excited apprehensions for the residue, about 250 men, under the command of Colonel Winder, suddenly put off in boats for the opposite shore; a part of this force had landed when a force deemed superior, with one piece of artillery, was discovered. A retreat was ordered and Colonel Winder's detachment suffered a loss of six killed and nineteen wounded, besides some officers.

The general embarkation commenced as the troops arrived, but this being the first embarkation the whole of the scows were occupied by about one-third of the artillery, while about 800 regular infantry, about 200 twelve months volunteers under Colonel Swift, and about 200 of the militia, who had volunteered their services for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops then embarked, moved up the stream to Black Rock without loss; they were ordered to disembark and dine.

I had received from my commanding General an instruction in the following words: "In all important movements you will, I presume, consider it advisable to consult some of your principal officers." I deemed this equivalent to an order, and the movement important. I called for the field officers of the regulars and twelve months' volunteers embarked. Colonel Porter was not found at the moment. These questions were put: "*Is it expedient now to come over? Is the force we have sufficient to conquer the opposite coast?*"

The first question was decided in the negative by Colonel Parker, Colonel Schuyler, Colonel Winder, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, Lieut.-Colonel Coles and Major Campbell. Colonel Swift of the volunteers *alone* gave an opinion for their crossing over. The second question was not decided. Colonel Parker, Colonel Schuyler, Lieut.-Colonel Coles and Major Campbell were decidedly of opinion that the force was insufficient. Colonel Winder, Colonel Swift, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler and Captain Gilman deemed the force sufficient.

I determined to postpone crossing over until more complete preparation would enable me to embark the whole force *at once*, the counsel prescribed by my orders. The next day was spent in such preparation, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation at 8 o'clock in the evening of the 30th November. On their arrival they were sent into the adjacent woods, there to build fires and remain until 3 o'clock of the morning of the 1st December, when it was intended to put off two hours before daylight so as to avoid the fire of the enemy's cannon in passing the position which it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippawa, assault that place, and if successful to march thro' Queenston for Fort George. For this expedition the contractor was called upon to furnish rations for 2,500 men for four days, but not the flour, the Deputy-Quartermaster called for 60 barrels and got but 35.

The embarkation commenced but was delayed by circumstances so as not to be completed until after daylight, when it was found the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery, 177 men, Swift's volunteers estimated at 230, six companies of federal volunteers, under Captains Collins, Phillips, Allison, Moore, Maher and Marshall, amounting to 276 men, commanded by Colonel McClure, 100 men of Colonel Dobbins' militia and a few men in a boat with General Peter B. Porter, had embarked, the whole on board amounting, exclusive of officers, to 1,465 men or thereabouts, and it was now two hours later than had been contemplated.

There were some groups of men not yet embarked. They were

appealed to, requested and ordered by the Brigade-Major to get into the boats. They did not. The number of these the Brigade-Major estimated at 150. It was probably greater.

It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open daylight with 1,500 men at a point where no reinforcements could be expected for some days. I saw the number of regulars was declining rapidly. I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend.

I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Colonel Parker being sick, there were present: Colonel Porter of the artillery, Colonel Schuyler, Colonel Winder and Lieut.-Colonel Coles.

I put this question: "*Shall we proceed?*" They *unanimously* decided that we ought not.

I foresaw that the volunteers, who had come out for a few days, would disperse—several of them had on the evening of the 28th broke their muskets. I foresaw that the number of regular troops would decrease, the measles and other diseases being among them, and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced, directed them to withdraw their troops and cover them with huts immediately.

You say that on Saturday every obstruction was removed, and that a landing might have been effected "without the loss of a single man." This proves you unacquainted with the occurrences of the day. Colonel Winder, in retiring from the enemy's shore in the morning, lost a tenth part of his force in killed and wounded. The enemy showed no more than 500 or 600 men, as estimated by Colonel Parker, and one piece of artillery, supposed to be a nine-pounder. That force we might no doubt have overcome but not without loss, and that from the great advantage the enemy would have had, might have been considerable.

To recapitulate, my orders were to pass into Canada with 3,000 men *at once*. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1,400 men were embarked, of whom 400, that is half the regular infantry, were exhausted with fatigue and want of rest. On the second embarkation only 1,500 men were embarked, and these were to have put off immediately and to have descended the river to a point where reinforcements were not to be expected. On both days many of the regular troops were men in bad health who could not have stood one day's march, who, altho' they were on the sick report, were turned out by their ardent officers.

The affair at Queenston is a caution against relying on crowds who go to the bank of Niagara to look on a battle as on a théatrical

exhibition, who if they are disappointed of the sight break their muskets, or if they are without rations for a day desert.*

I have made to you this frank disclosure without admitting your authority to require it, under the impression you are patriotic and candid men, and that you will not censure me for following the cautious counsels of experience nor join in the scurrilous clamor excited against me by an interested man.

I have some reason to believe that the cautious counsel given by the superior officers of my command was good. From deserters we learn that 2,344 rations are issued daily on the frontier on the British side. Captain King, prisoner at Fort George, writes to an officer thus: "*Tell our friends to take better care of themselves than it appears I have done.*"

P. S.—It will be observed that the force ready could not otherwise be ascertained than by an *actual* embarkation, it being uncertain what portion of the volunteer force would embark.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

Buffalo Gazette, February 2nd, 1813.

(From the Huntingdon Gazette.)

To the Public:

Having acted as Judge Advocate of General Tannehill's brigade on the late expedition to Buffalo, I think it my duty to state that the information communicated to the public by General Smyth, "that a court martial of said brigade had fined a volunteer twelve and-a-half cents for the crime of desertion" is entirely unfounded; no such decision was made,

The misrepresentation (if undesigned) must have arisen from the circumstance of a soldier having been fined in that sum for firing off his gun contrary to orders.

M. Canan.

January 14th, 1813.

Lieut.-Colonel George Fleming to Governor Tompkins.

Black Rock, December 3rd, 1812.

Dear Sir,—No doubt prior to Your Excellency's receiving this letter you will have received a particular account of the late military transactions at this place. All is confusion and bustle here.

From what I hear here and at Buffalo, General Smyth, I have

*Six hundred of General Tannehill's brigade deserted in 24 hours. A court martial of this brigade have fined a man *twelve and-a-half cents* for the crime of desertion.

reason to believe, has entirely lost the confidence of both the militia and United States troops. I understand he has directed the proclamation volunteers to return home, without thanking them for their patriotism. They are very much dissatisfied with him.

My last letter to Your Excellency was dated at Batavia, the 23rd ultimo. I arrived at Buffalo in the night of the 26th. The next day I waited on General Smyth. He received me very politely and told me he was pleased I had arrived. He immediately gave me a written order, a copy of which is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
November 27, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Fleming will take command of the artillerists of militia opposite to Fort Erie.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,
Brigadier-General, Comd'g.

I immediately on receiving this order came to this place, and before peep of day got all ready in the battery. Captain Hart's company of militia artillery is stationed to assist in covering the landing of our troops in Canada. Captain Hart's company of 18 men is the only company of militia artillerists here. More are wanted, but at present I am not able to mention whether one or two companies.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 286-7, New York State Library.)

Captain A. Gray, Acting Deputy-Quartermaster General, to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, 3rd Dec., 1812.

SIR,—I feel it my duty to take the earliest opportunity of laying before Your Excellency such information as I have been able to collect, relative to the state of the marine in this Province

I was not prepared to meet with anything very consolatory in this branch of the service, and I am sorry to add that all the unfavorable reports I received of its state are confirmed in the fullest extent. The officers of the marine seem to be destitute of all energy and spirit and are sunk into contempt in the eyes of all who know them. The want of seamen is so great that the *Royal George* has only 17 men on board who are capable of doing their duty, and the *Moira* only 10 able seamen*. On the other hand the efforts of the enemy are such that nothing can save our navy from destruction the moment that navigation opens in the spring.

*Note by Sir George Prevost: "34 on the march, Dy. Q. M. Gen. to procure more."

They have already got the ascendency in Lake Ontario by manning the *Oneida* brig and manning and arming six or seven of their merch[an]t craft. The force is at present an even match for our three vessels constituted *as they are at present*, but when to this force of the enemy is added the frigate they are now building at Sackett's Harbor we shall be completely at their mercy in every direction, and, what renders this state of affairs more mortifying, there does not appear the least chance of our being enabled by any exertion with our limited means of keeping pace with the enemy, so much has he got the start of us. Captain Brock has just arrived on parole from Sackett's Harbor and fully confirms the reports that had previously reached us of the exertions the enemy are making at that place. The frigate was expected to be launched in a fortnight or three weeks and another is to be laid down on the same slip. This he had from Commodore Chauncey himself, who it seems was very communicative and full of confidence in his strength.

When I arrived I found the *Royal George* and *Moira* here with the intention of wintering, as there is no force at present at York to protect them.

I have selected a station for them calculated on defensive measures only, as our object now, I conceive, is to prevent, if we can, the enemy from getting possession of our vessels. The *Prince Reg[en]t* is employed in transporting stores between York and Niagara.

As to the works of defence here but little can be said. About six or eight small ship guns are mounted on the batteries, and a block house is built upon the high ground for the protection of the harbor, mounting at present a 6 and a 9-pounder, the whole capable of making but a feeble resistance to the force the enemy has the power of bringing against us.

At the same time that I communicate to Your Excellency the unfavorable situation that we are placed in by the exertions of the enemy, and the total want of means on our part, I beg leave humbly to suggest the only mode left for us to recover at a blow what we have lost.

I find from the information I have been able to collect that Sackett's Harbor is not at present in a state to make any resistance against a *coup de main* if we were in sufficient force. There are but two batteries and these are upon points forming the harbor and lately appropriated to the marine defence of the place, and it does not appear that there are any blockhouses or enclosed works of any sort, nor any measures taken to defend the place against any attack by land.

The force at present in Sackett's Harbor consists of about 1,000 militia in a wretched state of equipment, much discontented and very sickly, one company of artillery (regulars) and about 200 ship carpenters and seamen. The distance from hence to Sackett's Harbor is about 45 miles, viz.: To Gravelly Point 14 miles; here the enemy has a post of 200 militia in a musket proof barrack (loopholed.) Between this point and Sackett's Harbor the distance is 31 miles, mostly through wood, with scattered settlements and partial clearings.

This road will be beaten in order to carry supplies between Sackett's Harbor and Gravelly Point, but from here to Gravelly Point the road must be beaten.

The force requisite for this service need not be very great. I should imagine one good regiment, exclusive of what may be collected here, would be sufficient. If Your Excellency approves of the suggestions I have taken the liberty of submitting, the necessary preparation may be made below, and the men destined for this service provided with snow shoes and trained to the use of them. I am aware that this enterprise is not without risk; there is, however, every prospect of success, as this part is very distant from succour. I believe Albany is the nearest point from whence they could be reinforced with effect, which is as far distant from Sackett's Harbor as Montreal is from hence. If the troops from the Lower Province are put in motion about the latter end of January they could reach this in good season for making the attack. They would not be more than 10 days in reaching this in light marching order.

They need not be above a month absent from Montreal. Either the King's Regiment (with its flank companies) or the flank battalion would be sufficient for this purpose. The principal thing to be apprehended would be the intelligence of our movements reaching the enemy, but if the enterprise is conducted with despatch the blow would be struck before he could avail himself of any information he might receive. We would require three or four pieces of artillery on sleighs to destroy any block houses or temporary works they may in the meantime run up.

If this measure is not adopted some efforts out of the common routine must be made. There are not shipwrights in this Province to execute half the work required. It might under those circumstances be advisable to engage *all* the master shipwrights in Lower Canada with their men, and send them up to work, by contract or otherwise.

The ships being laid up here is not choice but accident, as they

were sent with the view of returning, but the weather has been so severe that they could not get back to York.

It is, as I have already stated, perhaps the wisest policy to keep them here under the present circumstances.

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 135.)

Militia General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 3rd Dec., 1812.

Appointment in the Lincoln Artillery: Daniel Spilman, Gent., to be Lieutenant in Captain Powell's company from this date, *vice* McKee resigned.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 3rd Dec., 1812.

The light company of the 49th Regiment will march from Chippawa so as to arrive at Queenston early tomorrow morning. Captain Williams of the 49th will assume the command of the post at Queenston.

The detachment of the 49th Regiment at Fort George will march to Queenston as soon as the men have dined this day, those of the Light company will remain and join their company, to be quartered at that post: the remainder will proceed and join their company at Chippawa.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
Brigade Major.

Circular.

NIAGARA, 4th December, 1812.

SIR,—I think it proper to apprise you that the desertion from the First Regiment of Lincoln Militia has become so great that it is necessary to inform every officer of the regiment thereof. That such numbers can be absent without the knowledge of those officers of the regiment that are in the country I cannot conceive possible.

I therefore call on them in the most serious manner to exert themselves in bringing such absentees to their duty, and should

any officer know where deserters are and neglect bringing them in I assure them that when I find this to be the case such conduct will be reported to His Honor the President, and I shall strongly recommend such officers to be superseded.

W. Claus, Colonel,
1st Regt. L. M.

To Captain Jacob A. Ball,
10 Mile Creek.

Major-General R. H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

Fort George, 4th December, 1812.

Sir,—Some circumstances rendering my presence here necessary, I came down yesterday from Chippawa.

I have the honor of transmitting Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop's report of the operations of the 28th November, with a return of the killed, wounded and missing which I received yesterday evening. I also enclose sundry other documents, among them a proclamation by B. General Smyth; its character altogether is such as reflects the greatest discredit on those who could authorize its publication. It has not yet fully answered its purpose. From the information in some of the accompanying papers Your Excellency will perceive that a want of mutual confidence existed between the General and the troops. This is confirmed by intelligence I received this morning from Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, that Assistant-Surgeon Steele, who had been taken prisoner on the 28th, had returned, bringing the information that B. General Smyth had been forced to leave Buffalo because he declined moving his troops across the river.

The night before last I received a despatch from Colonel Procter, the substance of which is herewith transmitted. It was brought by Lieut. Merritt of the Provincial Dragoons, who was employed to convey the supply of cash and army bills to Deputy-Assistant Commissary General Gilmour, who writes to the Deputy-Commissary General that he feels confident of being supplied with provisions until the opening of navigation without further aid from him, which is fortunate, as a considerable quantity destined for Amherstburg has not been forwarded, circumstances having conspired to prevent it.

Our military chest is so nearly exhausted and there are so many demands on it that I have given my sanction to the Deputy-Commissary General to issue notes, a transcript of which is transmitted to the Commissary General.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 4th Dec., 1812.

Adjutant Smith of the 41st Regiment until further orders will do the duty of Fort Major in addition to his own as adjutant of the 41st Regiment.

No. 2. It being extremely difficult to procure sufficiency of wood for the use of the troops, it is enjoined on all officers entitled to receive an allowance of that article to be as sparing in the consumption of it as possible, and it is expected that no wood will on any account be drawn from the public depots at the different stations except for the actual use of the individuals drawing it. The supplies which may be left in the woodyard will be paid for to individuals by the Deputy-Commissary General at the contract price.

By order,
THOS. EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

(From the Quebec Mercury, 22nd December, 1812.)

NIAGARA, 5th December, 1812.

On the 21st about sunrise a cannonade was opened on Fort Niagara and was briskly kept up throughout the day. We made little impression on the stone buildings, which constitute its principal defence, but our fire was so well directed that we killed and wounded a good number of men stationed at the guns on top of them. These guns were several times dismounted, and one 12-pounder burst. They admit an officer and ten men killed and from thirty to forty wounded. The wooden buildings outside of Niagara were consumed by the fire from our red hot shot. Those inside were several times on fire but they succeeded in extinguishing the flames. It was supposed that an attack would have been made on the enemy's magazines and boats, but if so it was relinquished.

Since the rupture of the armistice our toils have been excessive, and we are almost worn out with watching and fatigue.

On the morning of the 28th ult., about two o'clock, the enemy crossed the river in fourteen boats, each conveying thirty soldiers, and rowed by ten sailors. They certainly effected their landing unperceived and came in rear of our three batteries at the rapids, the guns of which we were obliged to abandon after spiking them. They then proceeded in two parties, one by water the other by land, to attack our posts on the river. They were here met and opposed

by two weak companies of militia, by a detachment of the 49th Regiment under Lieut. Lamont, and two field pieces under Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery. Their superiority was so great that our troops, after having made a brave resistance and sustained some loss, were obliged to retreat and abandon their guns. On this occasion the enemy took thirty-three prisoners. Their boats in the meantime were very severely handled, and such part of the enemy as could get on board returned in them to their own shore. A detachment, however, under Captain King, aide-de-camp to the American General, continued its course down the river. On the first alarm Major Ormsby, stationed at Fort Erie, marched to his left to the point of attack, and after a slight action with Capt. King, whose force was by this time reduced to forty men, compelled him to lay down his arms. About seven o'clock the same morning another division of the enemy's boats, eighteen in number, attempted to cross the river two miles lower down. Colonel Bisshop, (who on being apprized of the enemy's landing, advanced with all possible expedition from Chippawa,) had assembled our whole force, consisting of Major Ormsby's detachment, about 150 of the 41st Regiment and the militia, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Clark and Major Richard Hatt. The approach of the boats was welcomed with three cheers, and when they had got within the proper distance a heavy fire was opened upon them from our whole line and a six-pounder under the command of Captain Kerby. The enemy soon after began to waver and in a short time rowed with all their might towards their own shore. Two of their boats were sunk by our fire, and in many of those which reached the land their numbers were so reduced that they had not the means of rowing more than three oars. On the first alarm I galloped from Niagara and arrived in time to witness a considerable part of the action. By this time we had assembled a force of eleven hundred men and some Indians and taken up a position in advance towards the Ferry, at which the enemy, after having burnt nearly all the houses, still kept up a heavy cannonade. On gaining the heights opposite Black Rock we had a full view of the enemy's whole force, consisting of about six thousand men. About three thousand of these were embarked in boats ready to push off and the remainder were drawn up on shore. They remained in this situation till about three o'clock, when, observing that we had unspiked the guns of the two twelve-pounder batteries and had got our six and three-pounders (which we had retaken) ready to open, they sent a flag of truce ostensibly to summon Fort Erie, but really to give them an opportunity of retiring from our fire. The night that followed this day was dreadful: the rain fell in torrents and, we

were all exposed till morning "to the pelting of the pitiless storm," and remained for nearly thirty-six hours without a morsel to eat. Never did I witness such zeal, such devotion to the cause, and such determination as pervaded all ranks. In the course of next day arrangements were made for getting our troops under cover in the remaining houses and barns. On the night of the 30th the enemy were again observed to be in motion and we were all on the alert. We have subsequently ascertained that a large force had actually embarked, but had afterwards landed by order of the General. Disturbances have since then taken place, both in the camp and town of Buffalo. General Smyth has been shot at and burnt and buried in effigy. The militia and volunteers, who are principally from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, have been in a state of mutiny and many of them have returned home. Still, however, there is a great force opposed to us, and all our exertions will be requisite to preserve this province from falling under a foreign foe.

P. S.—It is ascertained that General Smyth has absconded. We have accounts from Detroit to the 26th November, at which time the Americans were starving at the Glaize. Detroit is safe for this winter.

(File in Parliamentary Library, Ottawa.)

(From the Quebec Mercury, 22nd December, 1812.)

FORT GEORGE, Dec. 9, 1812.

Lest none of your troublesome friends in this neighborhood should have given you a sketch of our late operations on this frontier, I will briefly relate the occurrences of the 28th :

About two hours before daylight on that morning the enemy effected a landing at the upper end of Grand Island with about 400 men, and owing to his great superiority a party of the 49th under Lieut. Lamont, after gallantly opposing him for a considerable time, were obliged to retire, and were closely pursued into a battery which was taken by the enemy with that officer and many of his party, Lieut. Lamont having previously several wounds. Much about the same time the enemy, owing to the great superiority of his force, effected a landing at other points and carried several batteries. Lieut. King was severely wounded and made prisoner. As soon as day had sufficiently dawned to distinguish friends from foes our reinforcements, which had assembled from all points, were concentrated under the judicious arrangements of Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, who, after reconnoitering the enemy's force and position

and after a very sharp conflict, obliged him to make a precipitate retreat to his own shore, leaving their commanding officer and 38 prisoners behind and 18 dead on the field. It is supposed the enemy carried away nearly 100 killed and wounded in their boats during the morning.

This gallant achievement had not been performed without loss, which fell chiefly on the 49th. The return states 12 killed, 15 wounded and 28 prisoners. The latter I am happy to add have been already exchanged. The militia have also lost from 10 to 15 killed, wounded and missing. The enemy had the presumption to send over a summons to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp during the morning requiring the surrender of Fort Erie, who of course returned the obvious answer: "*Come and take it.*" A second landing was attempted with about 600 men at the lower end of Squaw Island, but being promptly opposed by our troops and one 6-pounder they were compelled to retreat with great loss. It appears the troops have been in a decided state of mutiny at Black Rock, and General Smyth pronounced his lack of confidence in the American militia. He was fired at several times and very narrowly escaped with his life. I believe the militia have, generally speaking, "broken up for the *Christmas holidays* and gone to their country houses."

District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 5th December, 1812.

No. 1.—The order of the 16th October, attaching Lieut. Walter Kerr to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, is rescinded.

No. 2.—Major-General Sheaffe understands from Colonel Procter that a verbal authority had been granted by the late Major-General Brock for Lieut. Troughton of the Royal Artillery and stationed in his command to draw forage for one horse from the 25th August. He is pleased to approve the same, on that officer furnishing the usual certificates.

No. 3.—The attention of the officers commanding militia corps and detachments is required to No. 3 of the orders of the 12th November, whereby it is directed that men be furnished the Commissariat Department for the purpose of cutting wood and thrashing of straw.

No. 4.—Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp will be pleased to order a nominal list of the killed and wounded and missing in the action of the 28th ulto. to be forwarded without delay.

(From the New York Gazette, December 15, 1812.)

Extract from a letter dated at Canandaigua, N. Y., 5th December, 1812:

When Smyth had given up his attempts to cross, the army were with difficulty kept quiet. On Sunday and Monday the officers waited upon him in a body upon the subject. He swore with tremendous imprecations that he would cross that night. The troops were under arms from 12 to 1 o'clock. All were embarked in good order and silence in the boats, the men all emulous to be in first. The boats pushed off and lay on their oars ready for the word. At that time two guns were heard to go off on our side, and soon after the morning signal was heard on the other. The boats were ordered ashore and a flag of truce sent over. He returned with an officer of General Sheaffe's. After a long conference the men were ordered to their quarters, the volunteers dismissed. The officers broke their swords, the men beat their muskets over stumps with rage. General Porter harangued the volunteers and concluded by calling Smyth a scoundrel and a coward, and that he should post him as such. Smyth for safety took lodgings in Buffalo, but the mob becoming dangerous the landlord desired him to depart. On the way a soldier snapped a pistol at him. He took refuge in his own camp, surrounded by guards and sentinels. During Tuesday night different parties came to Judge Granger's where he had lodged and swore they would have him dead or alive: $1,500 is said to be offered for his head, and he is no more seen. In the course of Tuesday a council of a few officers was called: what passed is not known, but they were all seen to go away very dejected.

(From the New York Evening Post, Tuesday, 13th December, 1812.)

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city dated,

LIMA, December, 5, 1812.

I have just time to inform you that General Smyth has had his troops several times under arms and in his boats in order to cross from Black Rock to Canada. On Monday last he had them again in his boats and ordered them back to camp. The troops were much incensed. He called together a number of his officers and made a statement which satisfied them. Among them was General Peter B. Porter. General Porter said that General Smyth had pledged his honor to go over on Tuesday morning and that all

things were ready. On Tuesday the troops were accordingly ordered down to the river and into the boats, but were soon ordered back again. Secret murmurs then broke out into loud complaints, threats and denunciations. General Peter B. Porter said publicly that Smyth was a scoundrel and a traitor. He was at the Rock and appointed to meet some of his officers at 12 o'clock at Landon's to explain. On his way there, while riding along the beach, he (General Smyth) was fired at. The ball passed through the clothes of his aid, who was by his side. The interview at Landon's was not satisfactory to his officers. General Smyth had spoken to Landon for lodgings. Landon heard threats from soldiers in the streets that they would commit violence upon his person and tear down Landon's house. He then went to Smyth and requested him to leave his house as being unsafe. The General then left the house and went to his camp. Double guards were set and every precaution taken to prevent surprise. The threats were made by some of the distant volunteers. In the course of the evening inquiries were repeatedly made for him by some suspicious persons at his former lodgings. Nothing further occurred that night. It is now said by everybody from headquarters that he is concealed somewhere and dare not appear in public. The volunteers who have been drawn out by his proclamation are dismissed and are continually passing here, much enraged at the noble Smyth who was to lead them on to "victory or death." With them he is now censured as a traitor and a coward. From what motives General Smyth has acted I know not, but I am confident that by omitting to go over he has saved his army.

The general opinion of those now on their return is that Gen. Smyth if found will be torn in pieces. At any rate there will be no invasion of Canada from this quarter, unless by the volunteers, which is talked of.

(File in New York Society Library.)

(From New York Evening Post, Thursday, 24th Dec., 1812.)

(From the Albany Gazette.)

Extracts of a letter from Buffalo to Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer:

BUFFALO, December 6, 1812.

Nothing was done on the part of General Smyth which promised a continuance of the campaign until the 10th of November, when he issued a proclamation calling on the citizens of this State

to volunteer for the purpose of invading Canada. About 400 volunteers came in in consequence of that proclamation, and were organized into a brigade, under General Peter B. Porter.

On the 16th another proclamation appeared. After this nothing occurred until Wednesday, the 25th, when we witnessed a scene in this village similar to the tragedy in Baltimore last July. Mr. Pomeroy, who kept a public house, had by some imprudent and unjustifiable expressions given offence to the volunteer company from Baltimore and to a number of the Irish Greens from New York and Albany.

Pomeroy is a federalist, or in their language a *tory*, and of course by men of their principles, or rather no principles, would for the slightest offence be doomed to proscription. Frequent quarrels had arisen between him and them, and they had several times threatened to take a mob-like satisfaction upon him. Nothing serious, however, was apprehended until the day above mentioned, when upon some new provocation their ungovernable fury burst forth. They began by breaking in pieces whatever property of his they could lay their hands on, and seemed determined not to desist until they should have laid his house in ruins. A number of our citizens, (among whom was Mr. Grosvenor,) who endeavored to restrain the fury of the mob, narrowly escaped with their lives. Several officers used every exertion to quell and disperse them but without avail. Captain Allison's company of volunteers was brought forward and ordered to charge on them. But they appeared unwilling to shed the blood of those who for some time had lived in the same camp with themselves. The mob seemed conscious that they had nothing to fear from this company, and continued their operations without regarding them. The house at this time was empty and the men were drawn up before it merely with a design of preventing the villains from entering. Soon after, Colonel McClure, who had been indefatigable in his exertions to restore tranquility, was called away to attend to some important duty and requested *General Porter*, who was present, to see if possible that no further outrages were committed.

By some mistake or neglect the guard was removed, and immediately ten or twelve of the ring leaders entered the house and began to commit every violence that madness could suggest, while about thirty others stood without acting as a *corps de garde*. The house was three times on fire, and as often extinguished by the exertions of several officers and citizens, who had entered with the mob for the purpose of saving from destruction the movable property. Captain Leonard's company of flying artillery was at that time ordered by Colonel Porter of that corps to clear the house

of the mob, and if possible to do it without shedding blood. On rushing in they were opposed by the rioters with clubs or whatever arms their fury could supply. In the combat which followed three of the mob were severely wounded ; one has since died, and another, it is thought, will soon follow him. Several others were made prisoners, but it was afterwards thought prudent to release them. As soon as Captain Leonard's company entered the house those of the mob who stood without ran to their camp, seized their arms and with increasing numbers were returning with a determination of charging upon those who were suppressing the riot. Fortunately they were met by Captain Maher, who with much difficulty prevailed upon them to turn back, under a promise that on next morning they would have satisfaction. Their rage was now directed against Colonel Porter and Captain Leonard's company, whom they threatened to exterminate. The flying artillery kept their encampment guarded under an expectation of being attacked. The next day was expected to be a day of tumult, but the officers managed to keep things tolerably quiet, and on the 27th General Smyth issued orders for all hands to prepare for an expedition to Canada. This of course swallowed up every other consideration, and happily we have received no more trouble from the mob.

There are several other circumstances attending this disgraceful affair which ought not to be passed over in silence. A connection of Mrs. Pomeroy's who lived in the house had the night before given birth to a daughter. The brutality of the mob rendered them totally regardless of her situation. She was carried from the house or it is not impossible that she might have fallen a victim to their fury. Dr. Blood, who was severely wounded at Detroit, was also in the house, and though he was scarcely able to move his situation gained him no compassion. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(From File in New York Society Library.)

(From the New York Gazette, 15th December, 1812.)

Extract from a letter to Colonel Van Rensselaer, dated at Buffalo 6th December, 1812:

Early on the morning of the 27th a party of regulars and sailors were ordered to cross the river and storm the enemy's batteries, spike their cannon and return. This was intended to have been effected by surprise, but the boats had scarcely left the shore when an alarm gun was fired on the opposite shore, and it was for that time abandoned. But the next morning between 3 and 4

o'clock it was carried into effect. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the brave fellows who were engaged. It was commanded by Captain King, A. D. C. to General Smyth, and consisted of about 500, of whom 35 were sailors. Of these 35 only seven escaped without being killed or wounded, and of these seven two were made prisoners. Our loss in killed and prisoners, I am told, was 36, besides a great number wounded.

District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 6th December, 1812.

The men belonging to the Grenadier company of the Newfoundland Regiment left at this post will proceed and join their company at Queenston without delay.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,
Brigade-Major.

Regimental Order.

FORT GEORGE, 6th Decr., 1812.

Capt. McEwen, Capt. McLellan, Ensign Robertson, Ensign Clement, and Sergt. Lampman will, without delay, proceed to the country and endeavor to collect all the men of their respective companies that they possibly can. They will for the above purpose call on those old men to assist them who are on pass until required; a list of whose names will be given them.

General Tannehill to General Smyth.

AT MR. WATSON'S, BUFFALO, December 7th, 1812.

SIR,—I feel happy to inform you that my health is greatly restored, although not sufficiently so as to venture much out of my quarters. Major Douglass waits on you with an inspection return of my *late* brigade; respectable a few days since, but now reduced by some unaccountable fatality to less than a single regiment. You will discover from the return that the officers, as well as the privates, are infected with the same dishonorable contagion—desertion. I am at a loss how to express my feelings on the present state of our little army.

I am at a loss to know what can or ought to be done with the brigade staff, field and regimental staff, and company officers who

have become supernumerary. I await your special orders how I am to act on the occasion generally. The expenses have been too great already, without any public benefits arising, and to hold them any longer would only be an accumulation of the same evil.

(American State Papers.)

Circular.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 7th December, 1812.

SIR,—I am commanded by Major-General Sheaffe to direct that you will be pleased to employ such officers and sergeants of your corps as are best qualified to effect it in bringing back absentees immediately, that the enemy may not gain an advantage for want of numbers to oppose him in any attempt he may venture to make before the state of the river will be such as to secure this frontier, at least for a time, from invasion.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjutant-General, Militia.

To
Officers Commanding Militia Corps on the Niagara Frontier.

District Militia Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
7th December, 1812.

As the enemy must in a short time be compelled by the state of the river and the rigor of the season to suspend active operations, the Major-General hopes to enjoy soon the satisfaction of permitting the battalion companies, as well as a portion of the flank companies, to retire to their homes. In the meantime he recommends the most vigilant and spirited perseverance in the defence of this frontier to secure it from any immediate renewed effort of the enemy and to preserve unsullied the reputation which the militia have acquired, in conjunction with the other troops, by their gallant and successful exertions.

By command of His Honor,
MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE,
ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjutant-General, Militia.

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,
7th December, 1812.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, taking into consideration that all the militia belonging to the regiments on and near the frontier were called out in the month of October, and that under the circumstances which have since existed no portion of them could be permitted to return to their homes, but the presence of every individual was of importance who could in any degree contribute to the defence of the Province from menaced invasions, and His Honor being further influenced by a due regard to the spirit and alacrity with which the officers generally came forward to oppose the enemy, he is therefore pleased to direct that all officers who were mustered in those regiments for the months ending the 24th of October and the 24th of November shall be paid at the regulated rates for the periods that they were actually present or doing duty, though the proportion of officers to the number of men should have exceeded on the day of muster that which was established by the militia general order of the 9th July, which is, however, still to be considered as a general regulation not to be departed from without a special authority from His Honor the Major-General.

By command,
ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjutant-General, Militia.

Brigadier-General Smyth to Major-General Dearborn.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, 8th December, 1812.

SIR,—The troops under my command having been ordered to hut themselves for the winter, it becomes my duty to report to you the proceedings had there since I took the command.

On or about the 26th of October I ordered that twenty scows should be prepared for the transportation of the artillery and cavalry, and put the carpenters of the army on that duty.

On the 26th of November ten scows were completed, and by bringing boats from Lake Ontario, the number was increased to seventy.

I had issued an address to the men of the State of New York, and perhaps 300 volunteers had arrived at Buffalo. I presumed that the regular troops and the volunteers under Colonels Swift and McClure would furnish 2,300 men for duty, and of General

Tannehill's brigade, reporting a total of 1,650, as many as 413 had volunteered to cross into Canada. I deemed myself ready to cross "with 3,000 men at once," according to your orders.

Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th November, I sent over two parties, one under Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler, the other under Captain King, with whom Lieutenant Angus of the navy at the head of a body of seamen united. The first mentioned party was to capture a guard and destroy a bridge about five miles below Fort Erie; the second party were to take and render useless the cannon of the enemy's batteries and some pieces of light artillery. The first party made some prisoners, but failed to destroy the bridge; the second party, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated by some misapprehension. Lieutenant Angus, the seamen and part of the troops returned with all the boats, while Captains King, Morgan, Sproul, Lieutenant Houston and about 60 men remained. Captain King, notwithstanding, with those under his command advanced to the enemy's batteries, attacked and took two of them in succession, rendered unserviceable the cannon, and took a number of prisoners. In descending the Niagara some distance two boats were found, on board of which Captain King sent his prisoners, all his officers and half of his men. His high sense of honor would not allow him to quit the remainder. He was captured with them.

Orders had been given that all the troops in the neighborhood should march at reveille to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment sent in the night having returned and excited apprehensions for the residue, about 350 men, under Colonel Winder, put off in boats for the opposite shore. A part of this force had landed, when a superior force with a piece of artillery appeared. A retreat was ordered, and Colonel Winder's detachment suffered a loss of six killed and twenty-two wounded, of whom six were officers.

A general embarkation commenced as the troops arrived, but this being the first time the troops had embarked, the whole of the scows were occupied by about one-third part of the artillery, while about 800 regular infantry, something upwards of 200 twelve months' volunteers, and perhaps 200 of those militia who had volunteered their services for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops thus embarked moved up the stream to Black Rock without sustaining loss from the enemy's fire. It was now afternoon, and they were ordered to disembark and dine.

The enemy showed a force estimated at five or six hundred men, drawn up in a field at some distance from the river, and had

one piece of artillery, said to be a nine pounder, ready to fire on our troops.

There remained unembarked a part of the artillery, a few cavalry, the volunteers under Colonel McClure amounting on that day to 340 men, a detachment from General Tannehill's brigade number unknown and little relied on. There were also sundry crowds who might perhaps have followed the army had it been successful.

Recollecting your instructions "to cross with 3,000 men at once," and to consult some of my principal officers "in all important movements," I called for the field officers of the regulars and twelve months' volunteers embarked. Colonel Porter not being found at the moment, Captain Gibson was called as the senior officer of artillery.

These questions were put:—Is it expedient now to cross over? Is the force we have sufficient to conquer the opposite coast?

The first question was decided in the negative by Colonels Parker, Schuyler, Winder, Lieutenant-Colonels Boerstler and Coles and Major Campbell. Colonel Swift of the volunteers alone gave an opinion for their crossing over.

The second question was not decided. Colonel Parker, Colonel Schuyler, Lieutenant-Colonel Coles and Major Campbell were decidedly of opinion the force was insufficient. Colonel Winder, Colonel Swift, Lieutenant-Colonel Boerstler and Captain Gibson deemed the force sufficient.

I determined to postpone crossing over until more complete preparations would enable me to embark the whole force at once, according to your instructions.

The next day was spent in such preparations, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation at eight o'clock on the 30th November. On their arrival they were sent into the adjacent woods to build fires and remain until three o'clock in the morning of the 1st December, when it was intended to put off two hours before daylight, so as to avoid the fire of the enemy's cannon in passing the position which it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippawa, assault that place, and, if successful, march through Queenston for Fort George. The contractor was called on to furnish rations for 2,500 men for four days, when it was found he could furnish the pork but not the flour. Sixty barrels were required, and only thirty-five furnished.

The embarkation commenced, but was delayed by circumstances so as not to be completed by daylight, when it was found that the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery, 177, Colonel Swift's volunteers, amounting to 230, six companies of Federal volunteers,

amounting to 276 men, about 100 militia of Colonel Dobbins' regiment, and a few men in a boat with Mr. P. B. Porter, contractor's agent, who was to pilot the enterprise, had embarked; the whole on board, without the commissioned officers, being 1,500 men or thereabouts, and it was now two hours later than the time fixed for setting out. There were some groups of men not yet embarked; they were applied to, requested and ordered by the brigade major to get into the boats. They did not. He estimated their number at 150—it was probably greater.

It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open daylight with 1,500 men at a point where no reinforcements could be expected for some days. I saw that the number of regular troops was declining rapidly. I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend.

I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Colonel Parker being sick, those present were Colonel Porter of the artillery, Colonel Schuyler, Colonel Winder and Lieutenant-Colonel Coles. I put to them this question: Shall we proceed? They unanimously decided that we ought not.

I foresaw that the volunteers who had come out for a few days would disperse. Several of them had on the evening of the 28th broken their muskets because they had not seen a battle. I foresaw that the number of regular troops would decrease, the measles affected them generally, the constant use of fresh meat had produced dysenteries, and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced, and directed them to withdraw their troops and cover them with huts immediately.

The volunteers and neighboring people were dissatisfied, and it has been in the power of the contractor's agent to excite some clamor against the course pursued. He finds the contract a losing one, and would wish to see the army in Canada, that he might not be bound to supply it.

I am sorry the situation of the force under my command has not been such as to make the propriety of a forward movement obvious to all. Circumstanced as we were, I have thought it my duty to follow the cautious counsels of experience, and not precipitation, to add to the list of our defeats.

You will perceive my motives by my letter of the 30th of October, wherein I said: "I would cross in three days if I had the means. Without them it would be injustice to the nation and myself to attempt it. I must not be defeated."

Allow me to recommend to your attention and that of the

Secretary of War, Captain William King of the 13th Infantry as an officer of the first class. His dauntless bravery, refined mind, high sense of honor and ambition to distinguish himself render him a fit subject for promotion, and he is perhaps the best disciplinarian in the army.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II. pp. 119-22.)

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, CANTONMENT, WILLIAMSVILLE,
December 8th, 1812.

By a return of the brigade of General Tannehill of Pennsylvania volunteers it appears that five captains, four lieutenants, eleven ensigns, eighty-three sergeants, eighty-nine corporals, twenty-five musicians and nine hundred and thirty privates had revolted and deserted, leaving for duty only two hundred and sixty-seven privates.

In consequence thereof General Tannehill will be pleased to organize the remaining non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates in a battalion under the command of Major Harriett.

A furlough for the residue of the time for which he has been called into service is granted to Brigadier-General Tannehill and his brigade staff.

A furlough for the residue of this month is granted to the field officers of General Tannehill's brigade, except Major Harriett; from the expiration of which furlough they shall be considered as discharged the service of the United States.

By order,
HAROLD SMYTH,
Lieutenant 3rd Artillery, A. D. C.

(American State Papers.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 8th December, 1812.

To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette:—

SIR,—A friend has just handed me the proof sheet of your paper of this morning, in which is contained what purports to be General Smyth's official account of the affairs of the 28th November and 1st of December.

I beg that you will suspend publication so long as to assure the public that in your next I will give a *true* account of some of the most prominent transactions of those days.

When our lives, our property, when the precious and dear-bought gift of our ancestors, the sacred honor of our country, when everything that we prize as men, or ought to hold dear as patriots, are falling and fading before us, it is time to speak out, whatever be the hazard.

In ascribing, as I shall not hesitate to do, the late disgrace on the frontier to the cowardice of General Smyth, I beg to be understood as not intending to implicate the characters of the officers whose opinions he has brought forward to bolster up his conduct. *Several* of them I know to be as brave men as ever wielded a sword, and their advice, if indeed they gave the advice imputed to them, may be accounted for in the obvious consideration with which every one who saw him must have been impressed that any military attempt under such a leader must in all human probability prove disgraceful.

Your very humble servant,

PETER B. PORTER.

NOTES OF THE TIMES.

The militia volunteers who came forward under the invitation of General Smyth have all returned home, cursing their stars because they had not "seen" or felt "a battle." The Pennsylvania volunteers, consisting of nearly 1700 men, have nearly all gone home for winter quarters. These troops were much dissatisfied. Since their arrival they have been exposed in tents. We understand that last week they were ordered to build huts, which they would not comply with. The United States twelve months' volunteers are to be stationed in this village, with the exception of Swift's regiment. Several families in this village have relinquished their houses for the comfort of the troops. The articles of provision and forage are now very dear and scarce.

FORT NIAGARA.

Extract of a letter from Fort Niagara to the editors, dated 25th November, 1812.

As doubtless you have seen the official report of the cannonading between Fort Niagara and Fort George on the 19th inst., I can add nothing to the particulars of the affair more than will be found in the report.

To prevent any wrong impression being made (none being intended) on the public mind as to Captain Leonard arriving at 10 o'clock, I must state that Captain Leonard had been ordered to the Genesee country to procure provisions for the army, and after a

rapid and severe ride arrived in time to share in the fatigues and dangers of the day.

Repeatedly have the enemy *(in terrorem)* threatened to take the earliest opportunity to reduce to ashes every building in Fort Niagara nor leave one stone standing on another. They took that opportunity by commencing a severe attack (every preparation made) immediately after the expiration of the armistice—the result speaks for itself: Fort Niagara has received but little injury, the houses stand to cover, the stonework remains to protect men with courage, officers with intrepidity and skill, and guns to repel, avenge, and under Providence to frustrate the next attempt of the enemy to carry their *terrible* threat into effect.

In no account that I have read of the battle of Queenston do I see the name of Lieut. Rathbone of Captain Leonard's company of United States Artillery. This young officer was selected for his known courage and skill to be of the expedition, was severely wounded (and now languishes under his wounds), and fell early in the day. He remained on the ground some time cheering and encouraging his men and alternately passed by the civilized and savage foe.

CASE OF CLARK, THE SPY.

Transcript of the sentence and subsequent proceedings in the case of *Elijah Clark*, who was convicted as a spy at a general Court-martial, holden in the court house in the village of Buffalo, on Wednesday, the 5th day of August, 1812, and continued by adjournment from day to day until Saturday, the 8th day of August, in the same year, whereof Lieutenant-Colonel Philetus Swift was President.

Majors George Smith,
Parmenio Adams,
Capts. Jos. McClure,
Samuel Jennings,
Daniel Curtiss,
Elias Hull,
Lieuts. Joel B. Clark,
Levi Mooers and
Jas. McNair,
} Were represented as assistants.

And Major George Hosmer was Judge Advocate.

SENTENCE.

The Court having heard all the evidence and the prisoner's defence, and very maturely and thoroughly considered the same, give the following opinion:

The charge specified is as follows: That the said Elijah Clark

is a spy within the meaning and according to the rules and articles of war and the laws of the United States.

1st. It appears that Elijah Clark, the prisoner, was born in the State of New Jersey, and that he continued to reside in the United States until within about 18 months last past, when he removed to Canada and there married, that his wife and property are yet in Canada, and within the dominion and allegiance of the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. For these reasons the Court are of opinion that (although the said Elijah Clark is a native born citizen of the United States and is yet holden under that allegiance, which as such citizen he owes to the United States,) he is nevertheless liable to be tried and convicted as a spy in the United States for his acts of a spy committed during the continuance of such temporary allegiance to the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with whom the United States are at war.

2. The Court are of opinion under the testimony before them that the prisoner did cross from the Canada shore to the United States, and did linger about the encampments and army of the United States for the purpose of spying out our state and condition, and of reporting the same to our enemies, and for this reason the Court are of the opinion that the said Elijah Clark is guilty of the crime whereof he stands charged, and falls under the 101st article of the Act, entitled "An Act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the army of the United States, passed on the 10th day of April, 1806."

And they do adjudge and sentence the said Elijah Clark to be continued in the present place of his confinement until the first Friday in September next, and that he be at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon taken from his said place of confinement and hung by the neck until he be dead.

GEORGE HOSMER,
Judge Advocate.

PHILETUS SWIFT,
President.

HEADQUARTERS, MANCHESTER,
NIAGARA FRONTIER, Aug. 13, 1812.

GENERAL ORDER.

Major-General Hall, having doubts how far the prisoner, Elijah Clark within named, comes within the description of a spy, by reason that he is within the *letter* of the 2d Section of the 101st Article of the Act, entitled "An Act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the army of the United States, passed

the 10th day of April, 1806," which exempts thereout "all persons not citizens of or owning allegiance to the United States of America," is pleased to order and doth hereby order a suspension of the execution of the within sentence until the pleasure of the President of the United States can be known thereon.

By order of the Major-General,

GEORGE HOSMER, A. D. C.

Opinion of the President.

WAR DEPARTMENT, October 20th, 1812.

SIR,—The proceedings and sentence of the General Court-martial which was had in the case of Elijah Clark conformable to your orders of the 1st of August last, and which were by you transmitted to this department, have been received and laid before the President, and I have the honor to inform you that the said Clark, being considered a citizen of the United States and not liable to be tried by a court-martial as a spy, the President is pleased to direct that unless he should be arraigned by a civil court for treason or a minor crime under the laws of the State of New York, he must be discharged.

Very respectfully,
I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. EUSTIS.

Major-General A. Hall, Niagara.

Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.

DOWNING STREET, 9th Dec., 1812.

(No. 16.)

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your despatch No. 14, I cannot avoid expressing my doubts as to the expediency of the arrangement to which it principally relates. For, altho' I feel equally with yourself the desire of alleviating the miseries of war, I have some fears lest the indiscriminate release of all American prisoners upon parole may not tend to increase the difficulties of your situation without producing any corresponding advantage. Of this, however, from being on the spot, you will have the best means of judging, as you will be immediately able to ascertain whether the measure does not place at the disposal of the American Government means of recruiting their army which they would not otherwise possess.

For even if the prisoners should adhere to the engagement under which they have been released, and not join the army under General Dearborn, they may yet be employed with great advantage to the enemy in maintaining internal tranquillity and suppressing disturbance within the United States. At all events, however, I feel disposed to object to the port of Boston as the point to which such prisoners should be conveyed, since, from being situated at so small a distance from the headquarters of the American army, a greater temptation is held out to the violation of the parole, and in the event of their being exchanged they become more immediately applicable to the annoyance of the provinces under your charge.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 307.)

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 10th December, 1812.

(No. 28.)

MY LORD,—I beg leave to enclose for Your Lordship's information the copy of a treaty which has been entered into between Major-General Dearborn, commander-in-chief of the forces of the United States, and myself, for the release of prisoners upon parole and for their eventual exchange, which I have been induced to ratify to assuage as far as possible the evils attendant upon a state of warfare, and conceiving it to be consonant to the policy of forbearance recommended to be pursued towards the United States by command of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 104.)

Major-General Æneas Shaw, Adjutant-General of Militia, to Colonel Talbot.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 11th December, 1812.

SIR,—His Honor Major-General Sheaffe taking into his consideration the advanced season of the year and the many domestic calls on the militia who are now on the frontier, is pleased to direct that all those of your district, with the exception of such as are at Fort Erie, be permitted to return to their respective homes. As there are no public depots, the men will carry with them their arms, accoutrements, &c.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Brigadier-General Smyth to Governor Tompkins.

WILLIAMSVILLE, 11th December, 1812.

SIR.—No lists of the militia captured at Queenston have come to my hands, or I presume been taken. The printed statute which you mention as being enclosed to me formerly I did not receive.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., p. 292, New York State Library.)

Capt. A. Gray, Acting Deputy-Quartermaster-General, to Sir George Prevost.

YORK, 11th Decr., 1812.

SIR,—I had the honor to report to Your Excellency from Kingston upon certain points connected with the safety of this Province.

Since my arrival at this place, I have endeavored to acquire such additional information relative to the state and manning of our marine as to enable me to submit such ideas for Your Excellency's consideration as appears to me best adapted to meet the exigencies of the service.

The first consideration, I conceive, is to prevent, if possible, our ships from falling into the enemy's hands till we can procure officers to command and seamen to man them. This will be no easy task, as the moment navigation opens the first object of the enemy will be to destroy or capture our ships.

They feel so confident of effecting this object that they make no secret of their intentions. To guard against any attempt of this nature, I shall beg leave to recommend that 10 or 12 guns (18s or 12s*) may be sent up immediately, one-half to Kingston and the other half to York, and placed in situations there calculated to guard the shipping laid up, and to protect such as it may be judged expedient to build. I imagine there is round shot enough of the weight above stated to supply the additional guns required. A few additional artillerymen would also be necessary to assist in working the guns. This, as a measure of prevention, is calculated upon the lowest scale, as I am aware of our limited means. I should not have proposed the measure if I did not see clearly what we have to expect in a few months.

In my last letter I had the honor of submitting a measure to Your Excellency, which if executed with promptitude might recover what we have lost.

The more I reflect upon that subject the more I see grounds for *hope* as well as *fear*. What I apprehend is the probability

* Memo by Sir George Prevost—4-18, 2-12 from Quebec: 2-12 from Montreal.

there is of the enemy's strengthening his post by temporary means, which he has so much at his command, such as *abbatis* and barricades of wood, of which he has plenty, and axemen and carpenters in abundance. I know what an active enemy may do in that way, and they have an idea we may make the attempt. The only alteration I would propose in the means of attack is in some measure to the field artillery to break down any temporary defences (for such they must be, as the season will not admit of any other,) which they may in the meantime erect.

The other mode of proceeding, should this fail or not be adopted, is to endeavor to secure in part what we have, and build, so as to keep pace with the enemy. For this purpose, I should submit that a ship corvette, mounting 30-32 pd. carronades, should be laid down at York, and two vessels of the class of the *Royal George* built, one at Kingston and the other at Amherstburg. If such vessels are built of fir, or, in short, of such timber as comes first to hand, they may be got ready by the time their guns, stores and crews arrive in the spring.*

To carry this plan into effect, about 50 or 60 ship carpenters would be required, or if that number could not be found, axemen might be substituted for a part of them, as all idea of neatness in the execution of the work must be given up. Strength and despatch are the objects at present.

I have called upon the master builder for an estimate of the articles required to be sent up for the hulls. But Captain Steel can make that calculation with equal accuracy. The difference of expense in the carriage of stores by land or water is not a material object compared with that which is now at stake. I shall only add that at Kingston there is but little protection afforded the vessels from the works on shore. Here there is none.

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 119.)

The Duke of York to Sir George Prevost.

HORSE GUARDS, 11th December, 1812.

SIR,—I have received by the hands of your aide-de-camp, Captain Fulton of the 98th Regt., your despatch of the 22nd October last, and while I express my satisfaction at the very favorable report it conveys of the gallant and successful conduct of His Majesty's regular and militia forces, aided by the Indians stationed on the Niagara frontier, in completely defeating an enemy so superior in number in a second attempt to invade the Province of

* Memo by Prevost. Blockhouse for Prescott, Kingston and Chippawa.

Upper Canada, I cannot but lament the loss His Majesty's service has sustained on that occasion by the death of an officer so deservedly distinguished as Major-General Sir Isaac Brock.

I very gladly avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my approbation of the able and judicious arrangements, &c., adopted by his successor in command, Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, which led to a result so honorable to himself and to the troops employed under him.

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery and Captains Dennis and Williams of the 49th, who are particularly mentioned on this occasion, have received the brevet rank of major, and that the same rank has also been conferred upon the bearer of your despatches.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Talbot.

Decr. 12, 1812.

Dear Colonel,—I am so busy that I cannot write you as I could wish. I, however, enclose you General Smyth's proclamation. I shall write you by the next opportunity a very long, and, I trust, a *very satisfactory letter.*

P. S.—I have got the General to pass your estimates. Couche * should be hanged.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Colonel Talbot to Major-General Sheaffe.

Dover Mills, 12 Decr., 1812.

My Dear General,—Mr. Ross † arrived here yesterday and delivered me your letter, dated the also the copies of the General Orders of 9th July, 1st and 3d Augt., and 16th, 19th and 25th Novr. Mr. Ross further informs me that he did not receive pay for some of the officers, whose services were included in the estimate he took down to headquarters, viz: Lieut.-Colonel Burwell, 1st Regiment, Middlesex; Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick, 1st Regiment, Oxford; Major Bowen, 1st Regiment, Norfolk; Major Salmon, 2d Regiment, Norfolk; and Adjutant Eakins of the 1st Oxford Regiment. I must beg leave to explain the reasons and authority by which those officers were placed on duty, trusting

* Edward Couche, Deputy-Commissary-General.

† Probably Daniel Ross, Paymaster of the 2d Regiment Norfolk Militia.

that they will be considered sufficient to enable you to issue an order that they may receive pay for the time specified in the estimate. Lieut.-Colonel Burwell I ordered on duty in consequence of receiving information of parties from General Hull's army having penetrated into the Province to within a few miles of Port Talbot, being myself on duty at Long Point and Fort George with General Brock, to whom I reported the particulars. Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick was put on duty by a verbal order to me from Major-General Brock on the day of his sailing with the expedition from this place to Detroit, and the last time I had the pleasure of seeing that lamented general he expressed to me his desire that Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick should be continued on duty. Major Salmon was likewise placed on duty by Major-General Brock, and was ordered to proceed down the River Thames under Captain Chambers of the 41st, and afterwards served in the expedition against Detroit. Major Bowen, from being an exceedingly good drill officer, was ordered to be stationed at Turkey Point by approbation of General Brock, for the purpose of instructing the quotas of militia that were assembled at that station, and I can with great justice assure you that Major Bowen has been indefatigable in his attention and exertions to form the militia for service. Adjutant Eakins was also put on duty by order of Major-General Brock. Should those deserving officers be refused pay after devoting their time for the good of the Province, much to the prejudice of their private affairs and exposed to considerable expense, I am confident it would have a very unfavorable tendency in lessening the unquestionable loyalty and ardor at present manifested and destroying all faith and confidence in the Government for the future.

As there cannot be any apprehension entertained of an attack on this part of the country during the winter season, I will beg leave to recommend the propriety of allowing the detachment stationed in this neighborhood to be dismissed, as the men are most wretchedly provided with clothing, so much so as to render their marching to a distance almost impossible, and their families are suffering the utmost distress, being chiefly new beginners in the woods and dispersed through a great extent of country.

As far as I can collect from the information of some of our men that have been prisoners with the enemy, I am disposed to hope that the enemy have given up the idea of further disturbing the Province during the winter. I hope that you will strongly urge Sir George Prevost to strengthen you by every means that he can spare from below so that we may be prepared to meet the foe in the spring, should no accommodation take place between the two Governments previous to that time, but which I most ardently pray

may be the case. What a neglect and infatuation has been in our rulers at home not having immediately on receiving the declaration of war expedited a force sufficient for the defence of these Provinces. Such a measure would have effectually supported the powers vested in Sir John Warren's mission.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Cyrenus Chapin to Colonel S. VanRensselaer.

BUFFALO, December 13th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—This part of the country seems destined to be the theatre of events both strange and new. You will hardly believe me when I tell you that our two doughty generals, Smyth and Porter, got into a boat yesterday with something like 20 men, and with flying colors went over to Grand Island, burnt a charge of powder at each other, shook hands, and came "back again" without staining the ground with even one drop of their precious blood. The challenge was given by General Smyth, who, finding that no "ungathered laurels" were to be plucked on the Canadian shore this winter, even condescended to seek them on a little island, the claim to which is in dispute between the two Governments. The combatants were to have met between the hours of eleven and one, but it seems they were not willing or ready to quit this world until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when they met. The cause of this truly important and warlike movement appeared in the *Buffalo Gazette* of last week, I mean Porter's letter to the editors in which he directly calls Smyth a coward and indirectly a liar. The conqueror of Canada at first took this in high dudgeon, but one shot from his antagonist that just whistled over his head completely satisfied him "that Gen. Porter was a man of honor" and had doubtless labored under some mistake or misrepresentation when he wrote the offensive paragraph.

Captain Fitzgerald of the 49th Regt. was over on Saturday after Gen. Smyth had taken Canada by his white flag, and told a number of our officers who were collected round him that the United States would never conquer Canada until some of their old generals rose from their graves. But when he hears how General Smyth has the courage to be shot at, he will no doubt consider the situation of Canada as desperate.

(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 284-5.)

Return of Ordnance at Military Posts, Mounted on Garrison and Travelling Carriages.

QUEBEC, 15th Decr., 1812.

York:
Brass—Two light six-pounders.
Iron—Six six-pounders, four twelve-pounder carronades.

Fort George—Captain Holcroft:
Brass—One twelve-pounder, two light six-pounders, one 5½-inch howitzer, two 5½-inch mortars, two 4 2/5-inch mortars.
Iron—One 24-pounder, two 18-pounders, one twelve-pounder, nine nine-pounders, one six-pounder, one ten-inch mortar, two eight-inch mortars.

Dependencies:
Brass—Two three-pounders, three 4 2/5-inch mortars.
Iron—Two 24-pounders, one 18-pounder, one twelve-pounder, six nine-pounders, five 18-pounder carronades, one eight-inch mortar.

Mountain Battery:
Iron—One 18-pounder, one nine-pounder.

Chippawa:
Iron—Two nine-pounders, one six-pounder.

Fort Erie—Conductor Bryson:
Brass—Three light six-pounders, two three-pounders.
Iron—One 24-pounder, two twelve-pounders, one six-pounder.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, p. 62.)

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.

DIED.

In this village, on the 7th inst., Alexander Sisson, sailing master in the United States Navy, about 30 years of age, of a wound he received on the night of the 27th November in an attack on the British shore opposite Black Rock. He was a brave, valuable and meritorious officer.

On the 3d inst., near Fort Niagara, in consequence of a wound received in the battle of Queenston, on the 13th October, Lieut. S. Rathbone, of the 1st Regiment United States Artillery. The courage and skill of this young officer demanded and obtained for him a conspicuous station in the front rank of danger. At the storming of the battery of Queenston he was unfortunately wounded and fell early in the day, remained on the ground for some time

encouraging his men as they passed him. He was removed to the American side, where he languished until death relieved.

DUEL.

[We are happy to have it in our power to give the official account of the recent affair on Grand Island: it will tend to counteract the numerous falsehoods which are in circulation respecting the meeting. The challenge, we understand, was given by General Smyth.]

A meeting took place between General Smyth and General Porter yesterday afternoon on Grand Island, in pursuance of previous arrangements.

They met at Dayton's tavern and crossed the river with their friends and surgeons. Both gentlemen behaved with the utmost coolness and unconcern. A shot was exchanged in as intrepid and firm a manner as possible by each gentleman, but without effect. It was then represented by General Smyth's second that General Porter must now be convinced that the charge of cowardice against General Smyth was unfounded, and should in honor be retracted, which, after mutual explanations as to the matters which had given rise to the charge, was accordingly done by him. General Smyth then explained that his remarks on General Porter were the result of irritation, and were intended as provocatives, he having been assailed by General Porter, and that he knew nothing derogatory to General Porter's character as a gentleman and an officer.

The hand of reconciliation was then offered and received.

We congratulate the friends of these gentlemen upon the fortunate termination of a difference arising from too much precipitation, but which has been adjusted in a manner honorable to both.

WM. H. WINDER,
SAMUEL ANGUS.

Black Rock, December 13, 1812.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In the *Gazette* of last week I promised to give an account of some of the most "prominent transactions of the 28th November and the 1st of December." Having since that received from General Smyth assurances which, as a man of honor I am bound to believe, that the course pursued by him on both of these days was such as was required by his orders and instructions from the Secretary of

War and General Dearborn, this communication will assume a character quite different from the one then contemplated. I am pledged, however, to the public to give facts, which I shall proceed to do without comment, leaving it to time to develope the object of military movements which have appeared to me and others not only extraordinary but inexplicable.

On the 27th of November there was collected at this point a military force of about 4,500 effective men, consisting of regular troops, New York, Pennsylvania and Baltimore volunteers, under the command of General Smyth.

There were then lying at the navy yard near Black Rock, which had been previously prepared for the purpose of transporting the troops across the river :—

70 public boats, calculated to carry 40 men in each	2,800
5 long boats belonging to individuals, which had been taken into the public service, calculated to carry 100 men each.	500
10 scows for artillery and 25 men each	250
	3,550

Besides a number of small boats.

At two o'clock on that day I received a copy of General Smyth's order for the march of all the troops the succeeding morning at reveille to the navy yard to embark for Canada. I immediately gave orders for the New York volunteers who had been placed under my command to parade at 4 o'clock in the morning at their encampment, about one and a half miles from the navy yard. In the evening I learnt that the parties mentioned in General Smyth's despatch were to cross the river at 11 o'clock at night to attack the enemy's batteries opposite Black Rock. General Smyth, not being here, I waited on Lieut. Angus and suggested to him the propriety (if within the scope of his orders) of postponing the enterprise until nearly morning, to give as little time as possible before the passage of the army for the enemy's troops to collect from the stations down the river. They landed at 3 in the morning under a severe fire of musketry and grape-shot from two pieces of flying artillery. Lieut. Angus with his little band of sailors, assisted by Captain King and a few of his party, attacked the principal force of the enemy, consisting of about 250 at the Red House (the seamen charging with their pikes and swords against muskets and bayonets) and routed them in all directions. Captain Dox, who took a distinguished part in this affair, was severely wounded. After a hard and destructive engagement, the enemy were completely dispersed, the two field pieces spiked and the

house in which the enemy quartered fired. The seamen returned to our shore, bringing off their wounded and several prisoners. Out of twelve naval officers who embarked in this enterprise, nine of them, with more than half their men, were killed or wounded. If bravery be a virtue—if the gratitude of a country be due to those who gallantly and desperately assert its rights—the Government will make ample provision for the heirs of those brave tars who fell on this occasion, as well as for those who survived. Captain King proceeded to spike and dismount the guns in the batteries. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler dispersed the enemy lower down the river, making a number of prisoners.

By sunrise in the morning most of the troops had arrived at the place of embarkation, and the day was fine. I marched 340 of the volunteers, who had rallied under General Smyth's invitation, well armed and provided and in high spirits. About 150 more who came in the evening before were at Buffalo drawing their arms, with orders to join us as soon as possible. I stationed my men, as instructed by General Smyth, in a field at the navy yard, with directions to wait for further orders. The parties who had crossed in the night, aided by our batteries, which at daylight opened a powerful and well directed fire, and a piece of flying artillery on the island, under charge of Captain Gibson, had driven everything from the opposite shore. Colonel Winder, an officer of great intelligence, zeal and bravery, under the mistaken apprehension that the party under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler were in danger of being cut off, made an unsuccessful attempt, (although his own boat landed,) to land with 250 men at a different point down the river, and had returned as stated by General Smyth. The general embarkation now commenced, but it went on so tardily that at twelve o'clock the whole of the regular troops and Colonel Swift's regiment were not in the boats. A considerable number of boats were lying on the shore of the river and creek, having been thrown up by the high water of the preceding day. Several were in the creek half filled with water and ice. I called on General Smyth and proposed to occupy those boats with my volunteers, many of whom were impatient to embark. Being, however, at this moment informed by Colonel Porter that the boats which had been used by Colonel Winder were lying about a mile below, Major Chapin and myself, with about 30 men, went down the river, brought up five boats, filled them with men and arrived at Black Rock, the point from which it was proposed to put off as soon as many of the regular troops. At about 2 o'clock all the troops which it appeared were intended to be crossed at first were collected in a group of boats at Black Rock, under cover of the batteries. I have seen no

official account of the number of men in the boats. My opinion was that the number exceeded 2,000. Most men of observation who were present estimated it at 2,600. The men were in fine spirts and desirous of crossing.

General Tannehill's volunteers, Colonel F. McClure's regiment, some riflemen, cavalry, &c., amounting to about 2,000, were still paraded on the shore, and, as I am informed, were ready to cross. Several boats, of sufficient capacity to carry about 1,000, were still lying at the navy yard unoccupied. I have not been able to learn that any order or request was made for the embarkation of any of the troops other than the regulars and Colonel Swift's regiment. The enemy, estimated at about 500, were drawn up in a line about half a mile from the shore.

After remaining in the boats till late in the afternoon, an order was received to disembark. It produced among officers and men generally great discontent and murmuring, which was, however, in part allayed by assurances that the expedition was only postponed for a short time until our boats could be better prepared.

On Sunday another order was issued by General Smyth for the march of the troops to the navy yard, to embark at 9 o'clock on Monday morning. I was at Buffalo when it was received, and found that it was generally as to time and manner disapproved by the officers of the volunteers. I saw General Smyth in the evening at Black Rock with Colonel Winder, and stated my objections to his plan. The enemy had re-mounted his guns on his batteries so as to render it inexpedient to cross at the favorable point which had been taken on Saturday, above the island which covers the navy yard. Immediately below the island the enemy lay in force much augmented in consequence of the affair of Saturday, occupying a line of shore of about a mile, where the current is rapid and the shore abrupt. I did not believe it possible to effect a landing with raw troops in any tolerable order, if at all, in the face of the flying artillery and infantry, which a full view of our movements in the daytime would enable them to oppose to us. I proposed to postpone the expedition to night, to march and embark the troops silently, to put off about an hour and a half before daylight so as to pass this dangerous line of shore in the dark, when we should suffer less from their fire, and to land about five miles below the navy yard, where the stream and banks were particularly favorable to a safe and orderly landing. Colonel Winder seconded my proposal with great earnestness and force, and it was adopted. The army was to be embarked at 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and to proceed at half-past 4 according to the order of a line of battle submitted a few days before by General Smyth; the regulars on the

right or in the front boats, General Tannehill's troops in the centre, the New York volunteers on the left. I was to go in the first boat with a chosen set of men, direct the landing, and join the New York volunteers on their arrival.

On Monday evening seven boats for Colonel Swift's regiment and eight for the State Volunteers were brought some distance up the river and left at different points, to avoid the noise and confusion of embarking the whole army at one place. At half-past 3 on Tuesday morning the eight boats were filled with volunteers (Colonel Swift's regiment being higher up) and dropped down, taking their stations above the navy yard. On our arrival, I found that about half of the artillery (a corps which has on every occasion while on the lines shown great exactness of discipline, promptitude and zeal for the service,) had embarked and the residue were embarking. Not a man of the regular infantry was in the boats for about half an hour, when Colonel Winder's regiment entered their boats with great order and silence.

About three-quarters of an hour after this the remaining regiments commenced their embarkation, when I dropped down to the front of the line with a flag in my boat to designate it as the leading boat. I was accompanied by Majors Cyrenius Chapin and John W. Macomb, Captain Mills of the cavalry, Adjutant Chace and Quartermaster Chaplin, and about 25 volunteers from Buffalo under Lieut. Haynes.

I mention the names of these gentlemen because they had the day before decidedly objected to passing at the proposed point by daylight, but when daylight appeared and one of the men raised some difficulty on that account, he was induced to remain, and it was unanimously agreed to incur the additional hazard and patiently wait the orders of the General to put off. At daylight we discovered the troops disembarking, and were informed that the invasion of Canada had been abandoned for this season, and that the troops were ordered to winter quarters. A scene of confusion ensued which it is difficult to describe—about 4,000 men, without order or restraint, discharging their muskets in every direction.

About 1,000 volunteers came in under General Smyth's proclamation, but owing to the state of the roads, which was bad beyond example, many did not arrive till after the 1st of December.

It is impossible for me to form any estimate of the number of troops embarked at any one time this morning: it was yet scarcely light and I was at one end of a line of boats occupying a distance of half a mile. When the volunteers first arrived at the navy yard, and it was found that the regular troops had not yet appeared, their officers were instructed to permit them to land and keep themselves

warm by exercise, as the boats were covered with snow which had fallen during the night, but they were instructed not to leave the side of the boats that they might immediately re-enter.

PETER B. PORTER.

Black Rock, December 14, 1812.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.

Respecting our situation—that is not to be envied. Since the failure of the expedition the citizens have been in constant alarm—some from the enemy, some from fear of the famine, and others from fear of an epidemic disorder, said to be contagious. The superstitious say, "What the sword spares the pestilence will destroy, and what pestilence spares will be overwhelmed with famine." As to the enemy, we do not believe their force sufficient to invade us; their policy has hitherto been defensive; the only thing we need fear from them is *retaliation*, which might be effected by small parties of the enemy, and which might be prevented by a strong line of centinels on our exposed coast. Lieutenant-Colonel Boerstler, with a detachment of regulars, is stationed at Black Rock. While the roads remain in their present almost impassable state, there will unquestionably be a scarcity of provisions. Flour is now selling at 6 dollars per hundred, butter at 2 shillings and 6 pence per pound. The taverns and groceries are completely dried up. Even the whiskey distilleries are very hard run. The disease which has proved fatal to so many of our citizens and very many of the soldiers we hope is beginning somewhat to abate. Those volunteers who came out for a few days have suffered much, but the regular troops have suffered more. Not accustomed to the steady fare of the soldier or the solid lodging of tents, the new recruits and volunteers were much exposed to violent colds, &c.

From the National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., February 1st, 1813.

28th January, 1813.

To the Editors:

A publication signed Peter B. Porter has appeared in sundry prints, in which the writer professes to give a true account of the prominent transactions of the 28th November and 1st of December at Black Rock. Some facts are truly stated, but wherever the writer gives *numbers* are (I must presume wilfully) incorrect.

He states that on the 27th November there were collected near Black Rock 4,500 *effective* men under my command, that on the

28th 2,000 or 2,600 were embarked, that on the morning of the 1st December 4,000 men, without order or restraint, were discharging their muskets.

I affirm that on the 27th November there were collected in the neighborhood of Black Rock not more than 3,500 effective men, non-commissioned officers and privates of every corps under my command, not more than 1,500 of those were liable to be ordered to cross the Niagara, according to opinions generally received.* On the 28th there was 1,050 good troops embarked, and also so many irregular volunteers as occupied five boats, estimated at 150. On the morning of the 1st December the number of men armed with muskets who were at the navy yard, embarked or not embarked, did not exceed 2,000 men.

This statement is as correct as I can make, and is essentially correct.

He says he is informed that General Tannehill's volunteers were ready to cross. I had in my possession a return showing that of 150 officers of that brigade only 36 were willing to cross, that only 211 men volunteered unconditionally and 165 on various conditions. A part of General Tannehill's volunteers (I have been told 360) marched to the navy yard by a route I had prescribed and were prepared to embark. The remainder went to Black Rock by the way of Buffalo, I presume to be spectators. If they ever intended to cross the river that intention was not communicated to me.

If there were 4,500 effective men near Black Rock, how will General Porter in his capacity of *contractor* answer to his country for having only 35 barrels of flour on hand—*not two pounds of flour to each man?*

The hostility of General Porter to myself grew out of the *contract.* The troops were starving for provisions,† the officers complained of unfair practices, that damaged flour was forced upon them,‡ that the lean beef was stripped of every morsel of fat,§ that vinegar, candles and soap was not furnished, and in the sickly state of the camp those wants were severely felt.

Under such circumstances, after making ineffectual requisitions, I was compelled to order purchases made.

If Congress desires that our armies should conquer, they will

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* It is an error to rely on any troops except those who are *bound to obey.* Of Capt. Richardson's company of riflemen and the companies of Greens under the commands of Capts. Powers, Dillon, Tate and Walker, there were embarked on the 1st of December only Capt. Tate, two lieutenants and 8 men of the Greens.

† For this fact I refer to Col. Winder.

‡ To Lieut.-Col. Boerstler.

§ To Col. Parker.

consider that "an army is an edifice, of which the basis is the belly," and they will prescribe some effectual remedy of honesty, and amply supplying our armies with good and wholesome provisions. They will consider that "the principle of victories is discipline," and subject to court-martial of regular officers all the irregulars who join an army.

Respectfully your most obedient,

ALEXANDER SMYTH.

From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 29th December, 1812.

COUNTER STATEMENT.

To the Public:

The disgraceful attempt of General Smyth to invade Canada has everywhere excited astonishment, and though much has been said and written respecting it, yet no statement has been laid before the public calculated to make that impression which the public ought to feel. The official despatch of General Smyth is in many instances erroneous, and so far from being a dignified statement of facts, is but a pitiful attempt at personal abuse, containing little more than the suggestions of humbled arrogance and pride. From General Porter a statement was expected that would enable the public to form a correct opinion of the shameful transactions of the 28th November and the 1st inst. But the *affair* of Grand Island has induced General Porter to deviate from his original intention, and he has merely given a detail of facts so far as they came within his knowledge, without once referring to the causes of the extraordinary conduct of General Smyth. The public therefore ought to expect a statement of somewhat different features from some one whom whose pen has not been shackled by "*an affair of honor.*" Under this impression, the writer of the following article feels that he need not further apologize to his fellow citizens for thus intruding upon their attention.

The publication of General Porter contains, with few exceptions, a correct history of the most prominent proceedings of the army under General Smyth, but many things are therein omitted which ought to be known in order to guide the public opinion and enable those at a distance to judge correctly of the conduct that was pursued. Without repeating what has been already told, it is sufficient to mention those facts which have been passed over in silence.

On the morning of the 27th a party was ordered by General Smyth to cross the river and storm the batteries of the enemy opposite Black Rock. This was intended to have been effected by

surprise, but the boats had just got under way when an alarm gun was fired from the opposite shore and the expedition was abandoned. On the same day the following general orders were issued:

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
November 27, 1812.

The men for service in this camp and those in the vicinity will cook to-day two days provisions and have it in their haversacks at retreat.

At reveille to-morrow every soldier will put on his knapsack, shoulder his musket, and prepared for battle with flint and cartridges, will march to the navy yard on his way to Canada.

The boats will be ready for embarkation.

The tents and sick will be left under the care of guards of invalids until a convenient time.

Friends of your country! Ye who have the will to do, the heart to dare, the moment you wished for has arrived. Think on your country's honor torn, her rights trampled on, her sons enslaved, her infants perishing by the hatchet: be strong, be brave, and let the ruffian power of the British King cease on this continent.

ALEX. SMYTH,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

The terms of the above orders were so strong and positive that some did even suppose that the Government of the United States would soon extend to the frozen ocean.

The events that took place on the evening of the 28th at the time the enemy's batteries were stormed and their cannon rendered useless have been amply detailed in the publication of General Porter, tho' from the official despatch of General Smyth it would be impossible to form any but an incorrect opinion of that brilliant achievement.

From a perusal of it one would suppose that Captain King alone distinguished himself and was alone entitled to the need of praise, and so far from giving due credit to the gallant tars who were concerned in the expedition, the manner in which he mentions them would induce a belief that they basely fled in the moment of trial.

This gross misrepresentation of General Smyth doubtless arose from a pitiful desire to revenge himself on Lieut. Angus, who commanded the seamen, and who had expressed his decided disapprobation of the conduct of the General in the subsequent transactions of the day. The fact is that Lieut. Angus had under his command about 40 seaman, including officers. Of these 31 were killed and wounded, and, what is remarkable, not a single one of them was

wounded except when fronting the enemy. From this the public can judge with what bravery they encountered danger, and how little they merit the shameful treatment they have received from the hands of General Smyth.

Captain Dox too, of the regular army, had not even the consolation to find his name mentioned in the official report of the general, tho' he was severely wounded the moment he reached the hostile shore, and yet continued to fight with the most determined bravery until the object of the expedition was accomplished. He also disapproved of the measures of the general, and this was his punishment.

At the time the cannonading commenced on that morning, General Smyth was comfortably lying in his bed at his quarters, about 3 miles distant from the scene of action. He arose, and after delaying some time to enjoy the comforts of a breakfast, he and his suite proceed to the navy yard. During the whole way General Smyth is said to have manifested every mark of fear, and strictly charged his attendants not to utter a single word. On arriving at the navy yard he found that Lieut. Angus with most of his men had returned, and in a few minutes after Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler arrived with information that the enemy's batteries were taken and their cannon spiked. At this information General Smyth could not restrain his joy. "Huzza," he exclaimed, "Canada is ours! Canada is ours! Canada is ours! This will be a glorious day for the United States!" On being informed that Captain King was left behind, he ordered Colonel Winder to go with his regiment and bring him over, but Colonel Winder found that a considerable force was ready to oppose him, and returned without effecting his object. Immediately the countenance of General Smyth fell, and, to say the least, *irresolution* marked his conduct during the remainder of the day.

On that morning, by the smallest calculation, more than 3,000 men anxiously awaited the signal that should direct them to invade the hostile shore. Every heart beat high with expectation—every bosom glowed with an enthusiastic courage that would not have shrunk from a far superior foe. The enemy were confounded and appalled. Their batteries were silenced, their cannon harmless. A handful of our brave seamen and soldiers had taught them a lesson of terror. They had retired from the point of invasion apparently uncertain what to do and how to act. The day was mild and pleasant, and everything seemed to conspire to cover the American arms with glory and wipe from our standard every stain of disgrace.

Instead of seizing upon all these advantages, General Smyth suffered the auspicious moment to pass indolent and inactive, and

at length ordered his troops to disembark. "Shame, where is thy blush!" Well may the patriot "think upon his country's honors torn, and frown indignant on the man whose hand has done the shameful deed."

'Tis here proper to notice that between 10 and 12 o'clock on the morning of that day three sailors crossed over in a boat, burnt three houses, plundered as much property as they could bring away, and after remaining two hours returned without the slightest molestation. This is a convincing proof that General Smyth might have crossed over without meeting an opposing foe.

But here the scene of disgrace did not terminate. The next day the following General Orders again excited a belief that Canada was yet to be invaded:—

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,
29th November, 1812.

Tomorrow at 8 o'clock all the corps of the army will be at the navy yard ready to embark. Before 9 the embarkation will take place. The General will be on board. Neither rain, snow or frost will prevent the embarkation.

It will be effected with more order and silence than yesterday. Boats will be allotted to the brave volunteers. Fifty men will go in each red boat, forty in each white boat; a piece of cannon and caisson in each scow, the artillery men and about 20 of some other corps.

Seats will be put in the boats to-day, and oars added to the long boats, each of which will carry 80 or 100 men. Ropes will be provided that boats may take the scows in tow. A field officer of each corps will attend to-day to see preparations made and the boats arranged in order. They will cause seats to be made and other preparations.

The cavalry will scour the fields from Black Rock to the bridge, and suffer no idle spectators.

While embarking the music will play martial airs. *Yankee Doodle* will be the signal to get under way.

The regiments will act together, but without being scrupulously attentive to keep their places in the line. When we pull for the opposite shore every exertion will be made. The landing will be made in despite of cannon. The whole army has seen that cannon is little to be dreaded.

The information brought by Captain Gibson assures us victory. But the enemy are as brave as we are and will fight.

Hearts of war: To-morrow will be memorable in the annals of the United States.

ALEX. SMYTH,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

But "to-morrow" came and passed away without witnessing a single effort on the part of the General to meet the high expectations he had raised. The day was spent in doing nothing that could very materially promote the project of invasion. General Smyth held a council with his officers, both of the regular and volunteer corps, and it was resolved to postpone the time of crossing until 3 or 4 o'clock on the morning of the 1st of December. At this council some of the officers expressed their doubts as to General Smyth's really intending to invade Canada, alleging that he had already twice deceived them. But he swore a most solemn oath that he would go to Canada next morning, let what would oppose him.

Orders were issued for all the troops of the various corps to be at the navy yard by 3 o'clock, and in general they were punctual to the hour. But everything seemed to be paralyzed. One hour after another passed away and nothing was effected. The troops were in the boats waiting the signal to get under way, when daylight appeared in the east. The bugle horn sounded on the opposite shore. The General started when he heard it, and immediately after again ordered the army to debark.

It is impossible to describe the rage that prevailed among the troops at this second disgrace. General Smyth prudently kept himself out of sight, or it is more than probable that he would have fallen a victim to their honest indignation. The volunteers who had come in under the proclamation of the General were ordered to return their arms and were sent home. The man who had betrayed them to disgrace under a sacred promise of conducting them to honor and glory, did not even tender them his or his country's thanks for their well meant services; neither did he even render the most trifling assistance in their organization.

The following extract of a letter from Major Douglass to General Porter will serve to throw some light on the shameful conduct of General Smyth:

"The Pennsylvania volunteers became in a few days after their arrival at Buffalo dissatisfied with their situation. The long concealment of General Smyth's intentions excited uneasiness and conspired, with the confinement to their tents at this inclement season of the year, to produce in their minds the worst effects. For, although nine-tenths of the brigade upon its arrival would

have cheerfully crossed over into Canada in defiance of danger, yet these causes, added to the indisposition of their own General, prevented more than about four hundred and thirty from volunteering agreeable to a requisition made to ascertain the number that would cross. I waited upon General Smyth with an official return, and expressed my regret that so few had volunteered, but the General observed that the number was sufficient, and that the rest would be useful at Schlosser, and would tend to divert the enemy. Early on the morning of the 28th, agreeably to orders, I marched to the navy yard with a battalion of infantry, commanded by Major Harriott. Upon our arrival I waited upon General Smyth, informed him a detachment of Pennsylvania volunteers had arrived, that the remainder of the brigade would soon be at hand, and requested to know if Colonel Purviance might take command of the infantry provided a sufficient number of his regiment would volunteer. The General said it would be better to keep the brigade in a safe place, and the Colonel need not try to get more volunteers unless he was sure to get a sufficient number for his command, for 'we have more men than we want: we are now in confusion.' The regulars were at this time embarking and the General remained on the bank of the river an idle spectator, evidently unfit to accelerate any movement.

"The Pennsylvania volunteers, with the exception of less than one hundred who remained in camp, were, before half the boats were filled, in the edge of the woods awaiting their return to embark. No troops could be more anxious to cross than three-fourths of the brigade. Upwards of fourteen hundred eagerly looked for a debarkation on the enemy's shore, but the General, believing that it was not yet time to adorn his brow with the 'ungathered laurels,' ordered his troops to camp, although he had even, agreeable to his own statement, double the enemy's number, treble his force of flying artillery, and the cannon in his batteries spiked.

"I will pass over for the present the transactions of the second day, as it was known by his inattention to the embarkation and by his spending the morning, except a few minutes, in Captain Wallace's camp and Mr. Kinzor, our brigade quartermaster's tent, that he did not then intend the conquest of Canada. Permit me to turn from this disgusting scene and to close these observations by remarking that the order of embarkation invariably proposed by General Smyth was that the regular infantry, artillery and twelve months' volunteers should cross in the first boats and make good their landing, and the Pennsylvania and New York volunteers in the second. Yet he reflects on these volunteers for not embarking, and

attributes to them the cause of his inglorious retreat—made still more inglorious by the attempt to cover it."

Thus have I endeavored to give a sketch of the most prominent transactions of the army under this gasconading general. Those who were present called out with one voice that he was a coward, and to that cause was universally ascribed the failure of the expedition.

Before discussing this sickening subject, I will say a word respecting that part of General Smyth's despatch which relates to the strength of his forces. It appears from his own acknowledgement that on Saturday "he deemed himself ready to cross with 3,000 men at once," and his answer to Major Douglass certainly deprives him of the least color of excuse for not crossing at that time for want of sufficient force. The General has, however, with the most *wonderful* ingenuity, extricated himself from the difficulty by saying that only 1,200 troops, together with "about one-third part of the artillery, were embarked in the boats:" the remainder of the forces, amounting, of course, to nearly 1,800, must have remained idle spectators on the shore. The boats and scows would have carried over near 4,000 men *at once* besides the artillery. Yet, because the General had neglected to order more than about 1,200 into the boats, he attempts to justify his conduct on the ground that 3,000 were not embarked ready to cross *at once* agreeably to the orders he says he had received from Major-General Dearborn. This logic may do at headquarters, but we reason rather different on the *frontiers*. It is, however, to be remarked that, though the General estimated the force actually embarking at only 1,200 men, all who were present were confident it was much greater.

As to the numbers of the troops that were embarked on the morning of the 1st inst., it is difficult to form a correct opinion. General Smyth estimates the whole number at 1,512, but in asserting that there were only 30 men with General Porter or under his command he has been guilty of a gross deviation from fact, for the volunteers under General Porter amounted to at least 250 or perhaps 300 men.

CYRENIUS CHAPIN.

Buffalo, December 28, 1812.

From the Buffalo Gazette, 15th February, 1813.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It is with much repugnance that I step forward to interfere in an affair of a public nature, and that feeling is more peculiarly excited because I am constrained to correct an

erroneous statement of a gentleman who holds a high and responsible station in our national administration, but an inherent regard for the just distribution of applause to distinguished merit, and to restore to the disparaged the well-earned laurel, impels me to the task. I refer to the affair of the 27th and 28th Nov., 1812, noticed in a communication published in your *Gazette* of the 15th Dec., signed by Peter B. Porter, Esq. Although the following extract from Mr. Porter's address proves to be extremely incorrect, yet I am convinced that he relied (in that instance) on the representations of others who have greatly deceived him. Mr. Porter says:

"In the evening I learnt that the parties mentioned in General Smyth's despatch were to cross the river at 11 o'clock at night to attack the enemy's batteries opposite Black Rock. General Smyth not being here I waited on Lieut. Angus and suggested to him the propriety (if within the scope of his orders) of postponing the enterprize until nearly morning, to give as little time as possible before the passage of the army for the enemy's troops to collect from the stations down the river. They landed at 3 in the morning under a severe fire of musketry and grape shot from two pieces of flying artillery. Lieut. Angus, with his little band of sailors, assisted by Captain King and a few of his party, attacked the principal force of the enemy, consisting of about 250 at the Red House, (the seamen charging with their pikes and swords against muskets and bayonets) and routed them in all directions. Captain Dox who took a distinguished part in this affair was severely wounded. After a hard and destructive engagement the enemy were completely dispersed, the two field pieces spiked and the house in which the enemy quartered fired. The seamen returned to our shore bringing off their wounded and several prisoners. Out of twelve naval officers who embarked in this enterprize, nine of them, with more than half their men, were killed or wounded. If bravery, be a virtue — if the gratitude of a country be due to those who gallantly and desperately assert its rights, the Government will make ample provision for the heirs of those brave tars who fell on this occasion, as well as for those who survived. Captain King proceeded to spike and dismount the guns in the batteries."

The following statement contains a correct account of the affair, &c.,—each particular item can be substantiated by thirty witnesses:

On the 27th of November last, Captain King marched from the encampment at Flint Hill with about 150 regulars, who had volunteered to go with him on a hazardous and honorable enterprise. Owing to the badness of the path through the woods several men did not join the advance and embark with them. At one

o'clock in the morning of the 28th of November about 120 soldiers embarked in boats manned by sailors (6 sailors and a naval officer in each boat), the whole detachment under the immediate command of Captain King. The little squadron proceeded with great order and intrepidity until a landing of several of the foremost boats was effected under a brisk fire from two field-pieces stationed at the Red House, the two batteries, the musketry of two flank companies of the British 49th Regiment, a small detachment of artillery and a party of Canadian militia, their total force amounting to about 200. In despite of all these formidable obstacles, Captain King completed the landing of a considerable part of his men, in which he was ably supported by Captains Sproull and Dox and *some* of the naval officers and sailors. Many of the gallant tars formed with the regulars, raised three cheers and rushed forward in a superior style of gallant intrepidity and routed the British at the point of the bayonet, and boarding pike. While those officers, soldiers and sailors who had adhered to Captain King were landing and forming, some unknown person called out to the sternmost boats to retreat, in consequence of which several of them returned to the American shore without landing a man. Undismayed by this unforeseen diminution of his force, the intrepid King rushed on, frequently 8 or 10 paces in advance of his men, called out to them to follow him to the charge, and often precipitated himself into the thickest ranks of his foes, performing prodigies of valor. The two field-pieces and the Red House were taken and maintained against the British, who were routed in every effort they made to rally their dismayed forces.

After the Red House and cannon were completely in Captain King's power the British rallied their forces on an eminence, above the Red House and between it and the lower battery. At this juncture an order to "*retreat to the boats or you will all be cut off*" was given by some unknown person, the consequence of which was that about 20 out of the 80 soldiers who had landed, with all the sailors except 5 or 6, precipitately rushed into the boats, and by carrying them off deprived their remaining brethren in arms (then reduced to about 50) of the contemplated means of returning with the captured artillery after they should have fully executed the objects of the expedition. Disregarding this unexpected defection, the brave King and his Spartan band charged the British again, and soon drove them from their new position, and finally carried both batteries by dint of the bayonet.

The guns in the batteries were dismounted and one spiked. Not an enemy (except a few straggling parties with not more than two or three men in each and who generally surrendered themselves

prisoners when hailed) was to be seen on the shore from the upper battery down to French Creek, a distance of more than three miles. The detachment then left the batteries and Red House and as the unexpected deprivation of his boats frustrated Captain King's wishes to convey the cannon, prisoners and his men to the American shore, the gun carriages were rendered useless and the ammunition thrown into the river. Captain King then marched down the river in quest of a re-conveyance across it, and at French Creek found two British boats in a leaky condition, into which he embarked the prisoners and a guard, gallantly resolved that as he had been the first to land on the British shore that night, so would he be the last man to quit it. Lieut. Huston was charged with the first boat, Captain Sproull with the second, whose conduct at this juncture merits special notice. He urged Captain King not to hazard being made a prisoner but to suffer him to participate the fate of his remaining men, whom it was impossible to crowd into the boats, or if Captain King was determined to remain he would not leave him. Captain King rejected Captain Sproull's propositions and ordered him to cross the river.

Captain King, with the residue of his detachment, took post in the first house above French Creek, where they remained unmolested for more than four hours. When the sun had risen about an hour's height above the horizon, a detachment of the 49th, about 300, and another of Canadian militia about 400 strong, marched up, to whom Captain King was reduced to the necessity of surrendering himself and men prisoners of war.

The British have subsequently avowed to the writer of this, and to several others of his fellow prisoners, that they lost 52 regulars killed and upwards of 80 wounded in the affair.

In this brilliant exploit Captains Sproull and Dox bravely seconded the gallant exertions of Captain King. Each of these gentlemen richly merits the laurel of renown for their intrepid conduct.

A Young Soldier.

Organization of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

At a meeting of the principal inhabitants of the Town of York and its vicinity, held at York on Tuesday the 15th day of December, 1812, pursuant to public notice, The Honorable Chief Justice SCOTT, Chairman, it is resolved,

1st.— That a select society be established by annual subscription throughout the Province to be called THE LOYAL AND

PATRIOTIC SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA, for the following specific purposes :

1st.— To afford aid and relief to such families of the militia in all parts of the Province as shall appear to experience particular distress in consequence of the death or absence of their friends and relations employed in the militia service in defence of the Province.

2d.— To afford like aid and relief to such militiamen as have been or shall be disabled from labor by wounds or otherwise in course of the service aforesaid, provided that it shall appear to the Committee, hereafter to be named, that over and above the aid afforded by the Legislature to some of the cases above mentioned some further relief is necessary.

3d.—To reward merit, excite emulation and commemorate glorious exploits, by bestowing medals or other honorary marks of public approbation and distinction for extraordinary instances of personal courage and fidelity in defence of the Province by individuals, either of His Majesty's regular or militia forces or seamen.

2d.— That the society shall continue during the present war with the United States of America, and shall be under the special protection and patronage of His Honor Major-General SHEAFFE or the person administering His Majesty's Government in the Province for the time being.

3d.— That every person throughout the Province whose annual subscription shall amount to one pound or upwards, shall be admitted to the honor of being a member of the Society and have the privilege of recommending objects to its charitable bounty, and also of voting at all general meetings and deliberations of the subscribers, and that the members of His Majesty's Executive and Legislative Councils, Judges of the King's Bench, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Clergymen of the Established Church, together with every other person whose annual subscription shall amount to ten pounds or upwards, shall be directors of the society for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, and all general and field officers of His Majesty's regular forces serving in the Province are invited to be honorary members of the society.

4th.—That the affairs of the society be governed and its business conducted by a General Board of Directors, to assemble quarterly, that is, on the first day of the Quarter Sessions in the Town of York, which board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any number not less than five of the other directors, and that the Chief Justice and the

members of His Majesty's Executive Council for the time being shall be President and Vice-President of the society, without the presence of one or more of whom such General Board cannot be held or business transacted.

5th.—The General Board of Directors shall, by the Secretary and Treasurer, make regular entries of their proceedings and statements of their receipts and disbursements in books to be kept for that purpose, in order that the same be occasionally published and submitted to the inspection of the subscribers; and to facilitate the objects of the society the said Board shall appoint Committees of their own members, residing in the different districts, who may apply to the relief of cases of distress arising therein the whole amount of the subscriptions obtained in such districts, except three per cent. on the said amount to be appropriated by the directors towards effecting the third object of the society; and that the said Committee shall from time to time transmit to Secretary of the General Board at York an account of their proceedings and expenditures that unity may be preserved in the society throughout the Province, and a full statement of its transactions may be prepared for the satisfaction of all the subscribers and the public at large.

6th.—That the respective sums at first to be subscribed shall be considered the sum to be paid annually by each subscriber during the continuance of the society (unless in cases of leaving the Province or some material alteration in the circumstances of the subscriber), and shall for the present year be paid within one month after the subscription, and in the following years at such periods as the General Board of Directors shall appoint, in order to enable the Board to provide supplies best adapted for relief of distress on the most advantageous terms: and that the money accruing from such subscriptions shall be considered as constituting the funds for the purposes of the society.

7th.—That, exclusive of the annual subscriptions, the society will accept of donations of any extent whatsoever from those who may not choose to become annual subscribers or members of the society, and the names of such benefactors and the sums they have given shall be published quarterly in the *York Gazette*.

8th.—And whereas it is the opinion of this society that no personal merit whatever in military service can compensate for insubordination and breach of discipline, it is hereby particularly resolved, That the Board of Directors shall not be at liberty to bestow medals or other honorary marks of distinction upon

any militiaman or soldier who shall be convicted of desertion or absenting himself from his duty without leave from his superior officer or to afford any relief whatever from the funds of this society to the family of such person.

(From a printed handbill in Talbot Papers.)

Major-General R. H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 16th December, 1812.

SIR,— Captain Gray arrived here on the 14th and delivered to me Your Excellency's despatch of the 15th November. Lieut.-Colonel Myers will set out as speedily as possible for the Lower Province, and will take with him all the information that can be collected of the means which this Province can furnish for aiding in the execution of the plan which is proposed for the improvement of our marine establishment, to such an extent as shall at least raise it to an equality with the force preparing by the enemy, but for this important purpose it must be owned that assistance of the most essential kind must be drawn from sources that are not even under Your Excellency's control. Besides shipwrights, rigging, guns, and equipment of various sorts which the Lower Province may be able to supply, officers and seamen from the Royal Navy will be required. An addition of some heavy guns will be necessary for the defence of the posts of Kingston and York. It is desirable, too, to have some gun-boats, carrying guns of a large calibre, but the construction of these must probably be deferred as a secondary consideration, as it is not to be expected that we shall be able to engage at once in preparing every kind of vessel which may be deemed useful. Captain Gray will return to York and Kingston to give the necessary directions for commencing the work and for putting in a state of active operation all the aids that we can command for contributing to its progress.

The details of the proposed plan will be taken down by Lieut.-Colonel Myers. I have the honor of enclosing a general sketch of it.

It mortifies me extremely to have to report to Your Excellency that both sickness and desertion increased among the militia after the date of my last despatch; indeed the desertion was chiefly owing, I believe, to the distress in their families from sickness, &c., the want of assistance in various ways either for providing for their comfort or their subsistence during the winter. It must be confessed, too, that the militia were but ill-prepared for such cold weather as we have experienced. The clothing for them came up so late that with our defective means we could not get it made in

time, and it unfortunately happened that but a small part of the shoes provided for them had arrived at Kingston when Lieut.-Colonel Nichol sailed from thence with the supplies he brought up. The aid that we could obtain in shoes and leather from the neighboring posts of the Province was too scanty to answer the demand, especially as a considerable number of Indians, too, were to be supplied. The consequence was that a deficiency of shoes was rapidly increasing, and some men were disabled from doing duty for want of them. Under all these circumstances, it became necessary to adopt the means of giving my sanction to the absence of the battalion companies and to one flank company of each regiment, in order to prepare the way for an arrangement for rendering the militia force on this frontier more numerous and efficient at a short distance of time. I hope to have it effected in the course of two or three weeks, and that the enemy in the meantime will not be in a state to make an attack in such force as to overpower the resistance that can be opposed to them. I ought not, however, to conceal from Your Excellency my opinion that we must continue to be befriended by good fortune as well as by the defective plans and organizations of the enemy to enable us to maintain this position through the winter, even with all the aid that the best exertions of the militia may afford us, for it appears probable that the efforts of the enemy will be directed to this point, where it must be known that we are weak in number, with but little hope of reinforcement.

B. General Smyth is reported to have returned to Buffalo.

Captain King, who commanded the American troops in the attack on our batteries near Fort Erie, and is now a prisoner here, has applied to be liberated on his parole, which I have declined granting until it shall be authorized by Your Excellency. He is a bold and enterprising spirit, and appears to be held in high estimation on the other side. A private of the 49th pretends that he saw him some years since at Portsmouth under sentence of transportation, that he is an Irishman and his true name Mafrey. The soldier is at Fort Erie. I have sent for him that I may interrogate him myself on the subject.

I have ordered a General Court Martial to be assembled for the trial of three deserters, taken in arms against us: one at Michilimakinac, one at Queenston, and one with Captain King.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677)

General Alexander Smyth to Governor Tompkins.

WILLIAMSVILLE, 16th Dec., 1812.

SIR,—I understand that *Mills*, the person you sent to instruct

cavalry, has gone over to the British at Schlosser. He took in company the keeper of a public house there and a dragoon.

The conduct of this man at Black Rock from the 28th Nov. to the 1st Dec., was suspicious. Nothing but my great respect for Your Excellency could have induced me to give an order recognizing him as an instructor, a man in whose looks and demeanor *the villain* was so plainly visible.

I now mention this as affording a ground for being cautious in sending strangers to situations where they have the most complete opportunities to see our force and learn our intentions.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 302-3, New York State Library.)

Militia General Orders.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT GEORGE, 16th Dec., 1812.

His Honor Major General Sheaffe being pleased to permit the flank companies of the 1st and 2d York Militia to return for a time to their respective homes, a muster of them will be taken on their arrival at York, previous to their dismissal. They will be given to understand that their services may again be required at the shortest notice, but one-third of the number of each company will be relieved by an equal number from their respective battalions previous to their again being called out, and the non-commissioned officers and private men who may be ballotted from the battalions for this service will be allowed credit for the time they have been out in the battalion companies.

The officers of the respective companies will once in a fortnight make an inspection of the state of the arms, ammunition and accoutrements which the men have in their possession.

By command,
ÆNEAS SHAW,
Adjutant-General Militia.

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 17th December, 1812.

(No. 30.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit herewith for Your Lordship's information the copy of despatches I have just received express from Major General Sheaffe commanding in Upper Canada containing a report of another attack made by the enemy on the 28th ulto. upon the Niagara frontier between the posts of Chippawa

and Fort Erie, which I have the satisfaction of announcing, to have been repulsed in a manner highly creditable to His Majesty's army and the militia employed upon the occasion, with trifling loss.

The enemy has suffered considerably in killed and wounded, and one captain, (King,) and 38 men were taken prisoners.

The particulars of this affair are detailed in General Sheaffe's despatches, and the report accompanying them from Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, who, with the force under his orders, was more immediately engaged with the enemy, and to which I beg leave to refer Your Lordship.

I have to lament that Lieutenant King of the Royal Artillery and Lieutenant Lamont of the 49th Regiment have been wounded severely; the former fell into the hands of the enemy, but I trust will have been released.

I annex for Your Lordship's further information a copy of the general order which I have in consequence directed to be published to the army under my command.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 112.)

General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 17th Dec., 1812.

GENERAL ORDER,

His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, has great satisfaction in announcing to the troops under his command that he has received a report from Major General Sheaffe, communicating the details of a partial action with the main body of the enemy's army, under the command of Brigadier-General Smyth on the 28th of November, on the Niagara frontier between Chippawa and Fort Erie, which terminated with distinguished honor to a very small division of the British army under Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp, who, in a most spirited and gallant manner, defeated and repulsed an invading enemy so vainglorious in the great superiority of his force that he had, with an ostentatious pretence of humanity, proposed the surrender of Fort Erie to avoid an useless effusion of British blood, and which was instantly rejected by Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp with the contempt it merited.

The enemy was gallantly opposed in landing at two o'clock in the morning by the parties under Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery and Lieuts. Bartley and Lamont, commanding detachments of 30

and 35 men each of the 49th Regiment. Lieut. Bartley prevented for a considerable time the landing of a force more than ten times his number, and did not relinquish the contest until his party, reduced to 17 effective men, was threatened by a strong detachment of the enemy, who had landed, on his flank. He made good his retreat and joined Major Ormsby. Lieut. King and Lieut. Lamont resisted with spirit the advance of the enemy until both those officers, being severely wounded, they were under the necessity of giving way to an overwhelming force. The wounded officers fell into the enemy's hands.

Major General Sheaffe expresses in the strongest terms his entire approbation of the celerity and decision evinced by Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp, who moved with reinforcements from Chippawa and met Major Ormsby, who had marched with the detachment of the 49th Regiment from Fort Erie, and also detachments of the 41st Regiment and militia, under Lieut.-Colonel Clark and Maior Hatt. At daybreak this force advanced to meet the enemy, and made prisoner a captain and 38 men of the enemy's artillery and recovered the guns which had fallen into their hands and re-mounted them on the batteries.

This force formed to receive the threatened attack, but the enemy, being much galled by the musquetry, and suffering considerably from a six-pounder, most ably served by Bombardier Jackson of the Royal Artillery, turned their boats to their own shore after a vain display for several hours of their numerous armament. From the numbers left on the field and the boats which were sunk, the enemy's loss must have been very great.

A heavy cannonade was kept up from all the enemy's batteries during the day, but with little effect.

His Excellency cannot express in sufficient strong terms his approbation of the steady discipline and intrepid firmness displayed by the troops on this occasion, who, undaunted by the superior force of the enemy in numbers, have evinced a brilliant and glorious example of the pre-eminence of British discipline.

Major General Sheaffe reports the assistance rendered by Major Ormsby and the officers of the 49th Regiment and 41st Regt., and the light infantry company of the Royal Newfoundland Regt. under Captain Whelan, and of the militia under Lieut.-Col. Clark and Major Hatt, and Captain Kerby of the artillery, and of the Indian warriors under Major Givins, as having been gallantly and judiciously displayed, reflecting the highest honor on every individual engaged.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 130.)

Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Talbot.

NIAGARA, Dec. 18, 1812.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—You must think me the worst of men for the apparent neglect of you since my return from Montreal, but when you know that I have not had time even to see my own wife you will not, I am sure, think me much to blame. This cursed office, to which for my sins I have been appointed, engrosses *all* my time, and if I don't soon get leave to resign it I believe I shall go crazy. I have not had it in my power to attend either to your affairs or my own.

Alas! my dear Colonel, we are now no longer commanded by Brock, and our situation is most materially changed for the worse. Confidence seems to have vanished from the land, and gloomy despondency has taken its place. I dare not trust myself to write you all. I feel the field officers of the troops and militia have saved the country for a time, *but their efforts will be unavailing against bad management and despondency in those who are at our head and who ought to be better qualified to fill energetically the high and important situations they hold.* You may, however, depend upon it that those on this line will not relax in their exertions to save the country. I enclose you the only scrap of a paper I have. I have no longer access to the staff papers. I, however, learn that by the mail just arrived that a body of about 700 of the enemy attempted to surprise one of our pickets at Odell Town. They retired without doing us any damage, losing 60 or 70 in killed and wounded. We took five prisoners.

It is a long time since we had any Continental intelligence, but there is no doubt our affairs will continue to prosper in Spain. In Russia I fear matters are not so favorable. Gray, the Assistant, but now acting Deputy-Quartermaster General, arrived here a few days ago. He goes off this morning to lay down the keel of a frigate at York and a sloop of war at Kingston; the one to carry 30 guns, viz: 24 32-pound carronades and 6 long eighteens; the other of the class of the *Royal George.* An establishment from the Royal Navy is to man them, so I hope we shall yet hold up our heads. I have really had no time to attend to your concerns. Your coat is with my baggage at Kingston, for which I have sent by land. Young Rolph, just come in, will tell you all the American news.

P. S.—Madison re-elected. Lord Wellington at Burgos. The Russians, according to the French bulletins, defeated with immense loss—say 50,000; they (the French) acknowledge to have lost 10,000. Several generals killed on both sides.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Major-General George Glasgow to Sir George Prevost.

QUEBEC, 18th December, 1812.

The present strength of this detachment, consisting of four companies of artillery and thirty gunner-drivers, is by no means adequate to the duties they have been called to perform in so extended a line of operations.

A reinforcement consisting of a field officer and three companies of artillery and a corps of drivers sufficient for five or six brigades appears to me essentially necessary to carry on the various services of this country with any prospect of effect. A field officer and two companies and a troop of gunner-drivers would be required for the service of Upper Canada.

Two companies of artillery, with a troop of drivers, are necessary for the brigades in the District of Montreal, and three companies should be stationed at Quebec, with half a troop of gunner-drivers for purposes of instruction.

The field-train department, on its present establishment, is unequal to perform the services now carrying on.

I beg also to submit the necessity of a permanent depot in Upper Canada, with artificers for carrying on the various branches of the service, without depending on Quebec for all their wants.

(Canadian Archives, C.)

Major-General Sheaffe to Colonel Talbot.

FORT GEORGE, 19th Decr., 1812.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—In consequence of the explanation furnished by you and L. Colonel Nichol, I shall authorize the payment of the sums disallowed in the estimate of the 24th Septr. for the pay of the Norfolk, Middlesex and Oxford regiments.

I received despatches yesterday from headquarters to the 6th Decr. A superintendent and storekeeper for our dock-yard arrived at Kingston, a Mr. Plucknett, who has been in one of our dock-yards at home. From 100 to 120 shipwrights and 30 seamen are by this time near Kingston. *Naval* officers and seamen are *expected* from Halifax. A frigate and a sloop of war are to be built on this lake and another vessel like the *Lady Prevost* on Lake Erie. Some gunboats with heavy guns are to be added to the list.

The *Royal George* and *Moira* winter at Kingston. There has been a ridiculous affair near Champlain: 6 or 700 Americans attempted to surprise a picquet of ours of 20 *voyageurs* and 12 Indians, who were placed in a ditch by Mr. McCoy, command'g.

The Americans so completely surrounded the post that had been occupied by our people that in firing on them they only injured one another, and our men joined in the fire, without having a man hurt. The enemy retired after having 50 or 60 killed and wounded. A few of the latter were taken.

I. Coffin is appointed temporary Acting Assistant Commissary General.

Lord Wellington has taken Burgos. The French say they have beaten the Russians on the River Moskwa, 25 leagues from Moscow. They own the loss of 10,000, and estimate that of the Russians at 40 to 50,000. It is said that the latter were joined after the battle by 40,000 from Moscow, which city an uncredited report states to have been taken by the French.

Madison has been re-elected by 47. Rumor says that the *United States* frigate has been taken. Parliament is dissolved.

Massena advancing with 10,000 men towards Spain. Suchet and Joseph have retired from Valentia. Seville taken by assault with little loss. One of the large French mortars employed against Cadiz, and deserted by the Gauls, has been sent to England as a present to the Prince of Wales. The Government of Spain has published a declaration of freedom to all who had acted with the French.

If you knew but all I have to say, to write, and to do, you might be able to estimate the value of so long a letter.

Local intelligence I leave to L. Colonel Bostwick.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Daniel Dobbins to the Secretary of the Navy.

ERIE, December 19th, 1812.

SIR,—

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

In regard to the vessels cut down and in an unfinished state at Black Rock, there can be but little confidence placed in their safety. The yard is within reach of the enemy's batteries, and, if finished, the vessels could be cut to pieces in passing up the rapids into the lake. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(From Dobbins's History of the Battle of Lake Erie, pp. 10-11.)

Return of Ordnance Between York and Fort Erie—Dec. 19, 1812.

York:
Iron—Six six-pounders, four twelve-pounders on ship carriages.
Brass—Two six-pounders.

Eight batteries on the left of Fort George:
Iron—One 24-pounder, three nine-pounders on garrison carriages, two 18-pounder carronades on ship carriages, one eight-inch mortar on an iron bed.
Brass—One twelve-pound field gun, one six-pounder field gun, five 4 2/5-inch howitzers on wooden beds.

Fort George:
Iron—Two 24-pounders, one 12-pounder, one six-pounder, three 18-pounder carronades, one eight-inch mortar, one 5½-inch howitzer.

Four batteries between Fort George and Queenston:
Iron—One 12-pounder, two nine-pounders, two 18-pounder carronades.

Queenston:
Iron—One 18-pounder, two nine-pounders.
Brass—Two three-pounders.

Chippawa:
Iron—Two nine-pounders, one six-pounder.

Fort Erie batteries:
Iron—One 24-pounder, two twelve-pounders, one six-pounder.
Gunboats—Four twelve-pound carronades.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers.)

The Secretary of War to Major General Dearborn.

War Department, December 19th, 1812.

(Abstract.)

Directing him to sanction Brigadier-General Smyth's retirement. The President feels great anxiety for the vessels at Black Rock, as the enemy may seize the opportunity to destroy them.

Sir George Prevost to Captain A. Gray.

Castle St. Lewis, Quebec, 19th Dec., 1812.

Sir,—I have rec'd your letters of the 3d and 11th inst., containing your report upon the state of the marine of the Upper

Province, together with your suggestions upon the most effectual mode of obtaining and preserving a naval superiority on the lakes.

I am fully aware both from your representation and from what I have heard from other quarters of the low and inefficient state of our naval establishment in the Upper Province, and of the necessity of the most vigorous exertions to place it upon the footing that shall enable us with any hope or prospect of success to meet the enemy in that q[uarte]r.

I have therefore made the strongest representations to His Majesty's Gov't. at home what has been said by Sir John Warren of the necessity of an immediate supply of officers and men for the ships now on the lakes and those to be built. Mr. Plucknett, an experienced officer in the King's naval yards, has been appointed as superintendent of the dockyards, and the work to be carried on for the construction of the new vessels, and has already proceeded, together with 120 shipwrights and carpenters, to Upper Canada. Thirty-four seamen are also on their way to you, and the Asst. Qr.-Master General has been directed to procure as many more as can be obtained, and g. a. for the supply of shipwrights and carpenters will also be sent to you if required.

With these aids you will be enabled to enter upon the execution of the plan you have submitted, and of which I approve, of laying down at York a ship —— burthen and mounting 30-32 pr. carronades, and two vessels of the class of the *Royal George*—the one at Kingston and the other at Amherstburg.

For the security of the vessels now on Lake Ontario and to guard ag[ains]t any attempt of the enemy to destroy them when the navigation opens, I have directed a long 18 pr. and 2-12 to be forwarded from Quebec and two twelves from Montreal as soon as it can be done consistent with the other services going on, Mr. Clark having this day commanded the transporting for that port of the ordnance stores necessary for the two 18-gun vessels. [Erased] a company of the 49th, with a proportion of artillery, have been ordered for Kingston and York, and their places will be supplied by a company of the Glengarrys and a detach[men]t of artillery from Montreal.*

These precautionary measures will, I think, be sufficient to ensure the safety of our shipp[in]g on the lake until the expected reinforcements of naval officers and men arrive from England or Halifax.

With regard to your plan for the destruction of the enemy's naval force in Sackett's Harbor, it will require some consideration

*I have also given instructions for the building of blockhouses at Kingston, Prescott, and Chippawa.

before I can determine whether under the circumstances it would be proper to adopt it.

The object is certainly highly important, but whether it can be effected must depend upon the force which I shall have at my disposal at the time when you think it can be accomplished, and the number of the enemy on the frontiers.

For the corvette of 30 guns you propose building, you will, of course, make an immediate requisition for the supply of iron, anchors, stores, &c., in order that they may be forwarded as soon as they can be procured. I rely upon your best exertion, for forwarding this important branch of the public service, and I trust that, with the assistance we can afford during the winter and spring, you will at least be able to keep the enemy at bay until . . . . . (Seven lines illegible.)

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 125.)

Sir Howard Douglas to Earl Bathurst.

HIGH WYCOMBE, Decr. 20th, 1812.

MY LORD,—A long residence in Canada and a knowledge of my father's services in that country lead me on referring to the speech of the President of the United States to the liberty I take of obtruding an observation to Your Lordship on the extraordinary measures it is necessary to take to defeat the attempts which will be made to gain a naval superiority on the lakes of Upper Canada.

Your Lordship is well aware what effect an ascendency gained over us there would produce on the safety of Upper Canada, as well as the facilities it would give to prepare from that quarter a combined attack on the lower settlements. Nor, will it have escaped Your Lordship's observation, that so long as Fort Niagara is commanded, together with the power of destroying the town of Newark and of commanding Fort George. If the capture of that post (an enterprise which will require considerable means to accomplish and retain) cannot be looked for, the communication with Lake Erie by Queenston, Fort Chippawa and Fort Erie for the transport of stores must be abandoned and a new line opened by the River LaTranche (or Thames), which, becoming considerable not far distant from the head of Lake Ontario, falls into a small lake (St. Clair) between Huron and Erie. The land carriage on this line would, it is true, be considerable, but the river once gained, an excellent communication would be possessed, which is extremely convenient for the establishment of a depot on Lake St. Clair, or as a naval arsenal either for Lake Erie or Lake Huron.

But in either case the possession of the upper and the protection of the lower province depend upon our maintaining a decided superiority on Lake Ontario, which, I conceive, is in some danger of being lost unless extraordinary measures be resorted to without delay to secure it.

The vessels by which we maintained a superiority on Lake Champlain in 1776 were prepared in England, the frames, &c., being sent out in the squadron which my father commanded. The pieces were sent up the rapids in batteaux, and were put together and the vessels launched in an astonishingly short time on the lake.

By resorting to such means our command of Lake Ontario may be insured. The frames may be made here during the winter, whilst the masts, plank, spars and slips may be prepared in Canada. Vessels with the frames and such other parts and stores as are sent from England may arrive at Quebec by the 10th or 12th of May, and their contents reach Lake Ontario by the first of June. Thus by the month of August such a plan might create a sufficient force to hold the command of the lower lake.

The Provincial Marine should be put upon a better establishment and encouragement held out to entice the voluntary service of regularly bred naval officers.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 120, p. 197.)

Distribution of Forces in Upper Canada.

Fort George:
- Royal Artillery—3 officers, 41 rank and file.
- Royal Engineers—1 officer.
- 8th Regiment—1 officer.
- 41st Regiment—10 officers, 21 sergeants, 16 drummers, 169 rank and file.
- 49th Regiment—4 officers, 7 sergeants, 4 drummers, 153 rank and file.
- Royal Newfoundland Regt.—4 officers, 5 sergeants, 2 drummers, 104 rank and file.
- Glengarry Light Infantry—1 officer.

Queenston:
- Royal Artillery—3 rank and file.
- 41st Regiment—3 officers, 4 sergeants, 98 rank and file.

Chippawa:
- Royal Artillery—5 rank and file.

41st Regiment—8 officers, 11 sergeants, 2 drummers, 329 rank and file.

Fort Erie:

Royal Artillery—6 rank and file.

49th Regiment—7 officers, 10 sergeants, five drummers, 223 rank and file.

Militia not included, no return having been received.

Adjutant General's Office,
Quebec, 21st Decr., 1812. } EDWD. BAYNES.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1812-13, p. 102.)

Major General R. H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 22d December, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor of receiving Your Excellency's despatches of the 23d of November and 3d of December. I derive the greatest satisfaction from learning that we are to have the aid of so many shipwrights, &c., immediately with the addition of the number of workmen that the country can furnish; there will no doubt be sufficient to prepare the hulls, masts and ironwork quite as early as the other essential parts will be in readiness. I hope that Your Excellency will soon have favorable intelligence with respect to the officers and crews.

I have not yet heard of the arrival of the *Lady Prevost* at Amherstburg. If Captain Hall has escaped the tempestuous weather that succeeded her departure from Fort Erie and has reached his destined port, he will be directed to repair to Quebec unless it should appear that his presence at Amherstburg cannot be dispensed with.

Besides a vessel similar to the *Lady Prevost*, it is proposed to add two gun-boats on Lake Erie, Colonel Procter having represented that they would be of great utility. The general sketch of the plan proposed for the increase of the Provincial navy, to which I alluded in my letter of the 16th, was not enclosed with it, Captain Gray having told me that he was sending down a full report of it.

Mr. Deputy-Commissary General Couche's representation may prove just, though I think it improbable that there will be to such an extent a failure of supplies as to make us dependent on the Lower Province. The peculiar situation in which this has been placed for many months will no doubt have the effect of diminishing its resources; a restriction on its exports will become necessary, but whether it will provide sufficiently for the probable increased

consumption will depend on a variety of contingencies that may baffle the most plausible calculation.

I beg leave to congratulate Your Excellency on the success of your arrangements for frustrating the designs of the enemy on the Lower Province, and also on the efficient support which you have received from its militia.

(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 22d December, 1812.)

To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette:

SIR,—In the account which I gave last week of the proceedings of the first of December, I find I was under a mistake in stating that Colonel Winder's regiment embarked three-quarters of an hour before *any* other of the regular infantry.

I saw one regiment only, which I understood to be Colonel Winder's, enter their boats at the navy yard. There lay alongside a large number, and I supposed the whole, of the other boats intended for the regular troops, and which were unoccupied for about three-quarters of an hour. I have since learnt that the boats for one regiment had been taken a little distance up the creek, and that Colonel Parker's regiment (then commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Coles) and Colonel Winder's regiment *embarked about the same time*—one at the navy yard and the other in boats up the creek. It was a "mistake of the night," which, in justice to Lieut.-Colonel Coles, I most cheerfully correct.

Yours,

PETER B. PORTER.

Dec. 21.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth has given up the command on this frontier to Colonel Moses Porter of the United States Artillery. General Smyth has proceeded for Washington.

PENNSYLVANIA TROOPS.

Such of the Pennsylvania Line as had not previously discharged themselves were discharged by General Smyth (in pursuance of orders from General Dearborn) when he resigned the command. In the order for discharge General Smyth "thought proper to add an expression of his satisfaction with those men who had continued faithful to the standard of their country." General Tannehill has left this for Pennsylvania.

The fever which has made such dreadful havoc among our soldiers and citizens continues to rage. The physicians are taking unwearied pains to ascertain the character of the disease and to prescribe an effectual remedy for it; blood-letting is generally fatal in violent cases.

From the Buffalo Gazette, 5th January, 1813.

FORT NIAGARA, 24th Dec., 1812.

A number of heavy guns were heard this afternoon in the direction of York. Disease continues to make sad havoc through the country; it has mitigated with the soldiery. From deserters we learn that the mortality is great on the other side. Numbers die daily.

THE WEATHER

During the last two months has been variable. The most part of November was cold and stormy. December was more tolerable. A few of the last days of December were mild and pleasant. A rain storm succeeded, which ended with snow and frost. A few days of such weather will shut the lake.

UPPER CANADA.

Several soldiers and others lately *deserted* from Canada represent that Province to be in a most deplorable condition. Their supplies from Montreal are cut off by reason of Commodore Chauncey occupying the outlet of Lake Ontario; that *flour* and *salt* were not to be bought at any price. The inhabitants of U. Canada depended altogether upon our saltworks for a supply of that article, previous to the declaration of war. The British have lately been very actively employed in removing several pieces of field and flying artillery, ammunition waggons, &c., to Fort Erie from the positions below.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

Sir Roger H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 29th December, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of Your Excellency's despatches of the 17th and 19th of this month by Mr. McGillivray, with a copy of the treaty for the release of prisoners on their parole and for their eventual exchange.

Captain Gray has reported his having commenced the preparations for building a ship at York, and has proceeded for Kingston to give the necessary directions for the work to be executed there; he will send down a report from thence if an additional number of artificers should be deemed necessary from the Lower Province.

An express has been sent to Amherstburg with instructions for constructing there a ship of the class of the *Queen Charlotte*, and it is proposed to build two gun-boats for Lake Erie, or to purchase or hire two vessels for the purpose, as may be found most advantageous for the service.

I regret exceedingly that I have to communicate the death of Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General Dewar. Colonel Procter, in a letter to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, recently brought down by a private opportunity, reports his having died suddenly in consequence of the bursting of a blood vessel. Colonel Procter has appointed Lieut. Troughton of the Royal Artillery to act in his stead (of which I have approved until Your Excellency's pleasure be known). I hope that Lieut. King's services will soon be restored to that department. The last report I received of him was favorable. In case of his return a new appointment for Amherstburg may be unnecessary, if that of Brevet-Major Clerk should be confirmed, of which, however, a doubt has occurred to me, founded on there being already two captains of the 49th Regiment on the staff. Lieut. Troughton's appointment I consider as merely temporary, as his active services as an artillery officer may be required after a short interval.

The proceedings of the General Court-Martial on the trial of three prisoners are transmitted by this opportunity with my orders thereon, which I hope will meet with Your Excellency's approbation.

The sentence on Private Murphy was executed yesterday. He confessed his guilt, acknowledging that he had given the enemy all the aid in his power, and had perhaps caused the death of one or more of his old comrades, for which he declared his penitence and sorrow.

P. S.—Lieut.-Colonel Myers has had a violent indisposition, from which he is not yet sufficiently recovered to go out, and there is reason to apprehend that he would be exposed to great danger in going down at this rigorous season to such a climate as that of the Lower Province. I hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to permit his remaining in the Upper Province during the winter, or at least until the severity of it be past.

(Canadian Archives, C. 728, pp. 159-163.)

Major General Sheaffe to Lord Bathurst.

FORT GEORGE, 31st December, 1812.

No. 1.

MY LORD,—Having been so many weeks constantly in presence of an enemy of greatly superior numbers, will, I hope, apologize for me if I have not done myself the honor of addressing Your Lordship so often on the affairs of this Province as may have been expected.

During the season for active operations a great proportion of the male population was necessarily brought forward to aid His Majesty's troops in the defence of the Province. On this frontier from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie the enemy assembled so great a force that all the militia of the neighboring district were called out. Liberal supplies of clothing, blankets, &c., had been purchased for them in the Lower Province, but unfortunately various causes combined to delay their arrival at Kingston to a late period and to prevent them being all forwarded from thence before the close of navigation. The militia were therefore deprived of the early and extensive benefit which it had been intended to afford to them, and they were exposed to wants and privations, which many bore for some time with a most commendable constancy. In their absence, too, from their homes, their farms were suffering from neglect, much of their produce was lost, and many of their familes were in distress. This state of things caused desertions before the close of the campaign, but after the feeble and unsupported attempt made by the enemy on the 28th November, near Fort Erie, his militia and a considerable number of his other troops having disbanded themselves, and a large portion of the rest having retired to winter quarters, I dismissed the militia from this frontier, with the exception of a small body. In being thus permitted to return to their homes it at the same time affords relief to them and to their families and enables them to prepare future supplies of various kinds for His Majesty's troops. The effective force of the militia which has served on this frontier has been reduced by losses in the field and also by sickness, which, not confined to them, has generally prevailed in the Province. On the enemy's side it has raged to a much greater extent, and has not a little contributed to weaken his efforts against us.

The vigorous measures which have commenced under the direction of His Excellency Sir George Prevost for the increase of the Provincial Marine force have produced a happy effect on the public mind, which began to be depressed on finding that the St. Lawrence had closed without bringing reinforcements from Europe,

and that the Americans were making most formidable exertions to wrest from us the superiority on the lakes.

I propose going soon to York, where I shall consult the Executive Council on the expediency of summoning the Legislature to assemble before the expiration of the winter.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 315, pp. 219-221.

Augustus Porter to Peter B. Porter.

SCHLOSSER, Dec. 31st, 1812.

SIR,—I received your letter written at Avon, and was very happy to learn that you was recovering your health and spirits. I hope on your arrival at Washington you will lose no time in making application for my relief. In case you should obtain an addition to the price for the rations, I should prefer that the supply for N. W. army should not be included, as that has been supplied at a most enormous expense, and it is impossible to say what it has or will cost. Whatever it does should be allowed by the Government. On this river it should be at least 22 cts. To shew you what it will now cost, I enclose you a statement of the price here of provisions, &c. As it is now purchased and must be supplied during the residue of my contract, you may say I have put articles high, particularly transportation, I grant it is so, but *it is what it now actually costs*, and the waggoning is good, but owing to the scarcity of forage, it cannot be promised done less. It is, therefore, in vain to talk of it being too high; it will not be lower.

And as to think of fetching it by water, it cannot be done before the first of June to supply the troops, excepting them at Niagara garrison. As there is neither teams nor forage in this part of the country to transport from Niagara to Schlosser, therefore by saying it could be done by water would be only deceiving ourselves, as it would be impossible to do it.

On the whole, unless you can promise for me such relief as will cover the cost of supplies, I would much rather have none, for the loss of one cent on a ration would ruin me. It would take all my property to pay it, and the Government can only take all I have if I am ever so much indebted, and while I have not been considered at all, I might stand on better ground to obtain a discharge from the whole debt than if I had some allowance made me.

My purchases which I have made will require at least 30,000 dollars more than I have received to pay them. I am therefore

under the necessity of making a draft to that amount, which I shall this day send forward to G. A., Washington. I am sorry to do it, but what is to be done? I have purchased the articles for the army; the army have them. I have to depend on the Government to furnish money to pay for them. If they protest this order I cannot supply. Do if possible learn what number of troops I am to supply until June. I have yet no idea as to the number.

P. S.—You can state to the S[ecretary] of W[ar] that the supplies I am now purchasing will last sometime, and that it is necessary it should be laid in now; of course money must be advanced.

MEMORANDUM ENCLOSED.

Pork in Ontario, pr bbl	$ 14 25
Flour " "	8 25
Whiskey, pr gallon, 5/	
Transportation in sleighs thro' the winter, owing to the scarcity of forage, 16/ pr cwt.	

At this rate then calculate for 100,000 rations, viz:—

375 bbls pork, @ $14.25	5,343 75
Transportation of do., 1,125 cwt., at $2	2,250 00
574 bbls flour, @ $8.25	4,735 50
Transportation, 1,145 cwt., @ $2	2,296 00
3,125 galls. whiskey, @ 5/	1,953 12½
100 bbls for do., @ 8/	100 00
Transportation of do., @ $5	500 00
4,000 cwt. soap, @ 1/	500 00
1,000 galls. vinegar, @ 2/	250 00
1,500 cwt. candles, @ 1/4	250 00
	$18,177 87½
12½ pr ct., the old allowance for leakage and wastage	2,272 23
	$20,450 10
1 cent per ration for issuing, as formerly allowed	1,000 00
	$21,450 10
100,000 rations, @ $0.20	20,000 00
A loss of	$ 1,450 00

(From MSS. of Hon. P. B. Porter.)

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser of Philadelphia, 2d January, 1813.

Captain McKeon of the United States Artillery arrived in New York on Tuesday last from the lines. He informs us that he left the army in comfortable winter quarters at Eleven Mile River. The sickness which had prevailed having considerably abated, General Smyth left the camp for Washington City the same day Captain McKeon came away. The weather previous to the sickness of the troops had been most remarkably unfavorable, the sun having scarcely been seen once in twenty-four days. There is now good sleighing from Utica outwards. A sufficient garrison is left at Fort Niagara.

COLUMBIAN.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

Baptist Irvine to General Porter.

BUFFALO, January 6th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I returned from a fruitless jaunt the evening of the day on which I learned you had set off for Congress. I regret that I had not the pleasure of seeing you, for various reasons, but doubt not your advice may render more service in our councils than your presence could (under existing circumstances) on this great theatre of *paper war* and *countermarches*. Good God! how sick I am of this dull, inactive, miserable, inglorious life! Nothing here to delight or cheer in a military sense. The lake is now frozen over, but instead of proposing enterprizes or expeditions against the enemy, we are watching him lest he steal a march upon us. So petty is the force we have in Buffalo that to anything like an army it is only a *picket guard*. Two hundred men might destroy everything here if they surprised us. Many, if not all, agree that it was wrong to place the regulars so far off as Eleven Mile Creek, where they could afford us no assistance in case of attack.. But if it is true that the British force is at present reduced very small by detaching a part of it to act above, I think that with 500 or 800 men *we* could cross over and destroy their cannon and works, disabling them from troubling us until we behold the flowers of May, when, if our administration act wisely and zealously, and there be any patriotism left in the country, we may do more than make promises of invasion. However, I find that your namesake, who commands this *consumptive* army, is not regarded as a man of enterprise, though an excellent *police* officer in garrison or camp.

Of late they have brought up many pieces of light artillery towards Fort Erie. Whether they mean to act on the offensive or defensive I know not.

I write this hasty scrap for the special purpose of drawing your attention to the *staff department* of the army. All perfection is chiefly dependent on its perfection—all deficiency seems ascribable to its faults. It is the great regulator of the machine, and ought therefore itself to be constructed on the best principles. I cannot say that I know much more of it than from a little reading and some trifling experience of its incompleteness. To you and to your associates belongs the task of surveying and perfecting it.

How is it that soldiers do not and cannot enjoy (in this quarter) one-half of the articles to which they are entitled by law? That they cannot procure them from the quartermaster here (Thomas), after repeated solicitations, is a fact—at least as relates to the *volunteers.* These seem to be proscribed on all hands. Denied their rights and treated with *contempt* after they rallied round the American eagle from motives of patriotism, is it strange that half-companies sometimes desert, together from mere indignation at finding their motives derided and their finest feelings insulted? I know you will vindicate them against unjust aspersions so often thrown on them by those who cannot relish any other than an army of *mercenaries.*

I would be more particular in detailing facts and circumstances if we had it not in contemplation to draw up a remonstrance to the President on the subject. Whether he would regard it is, perhaps, doubtful, yet the public could thus learn the disease and Congress devise a proper remedy. Our condition would be most deplorable if the *contractors* and *commissaries* should act as bad as the *quartermaster,* but the former seem to comply with their duty as far as possible.

Nothing is trivial now that relates to the army. Government, I think, ought to bend all their attention to it. The Canadas are not to be overrun by debates on *merchants' bonds,* nor by sage questions put to Albert Gallatin (about the *benefits* of importing British goods); by sage committees of Congress, nor even by the 4-74's and 4-44's to be built—sometime. No; it must be done by an army, and ought we to deter others from enlistment by maltreating those already in the service? To give a collected resistless blow, I think we ought not attempt to strike *two* blows at once. Even *Crib* or *Molyneux* knows better than to do so. Then, let the navy alone *till another day.* The army is and ought to be considered as our mainstay.

I made free to make known to you what might do injury if

made public. We are very unhealthy at present. A putrid sort of fever prevails too generally among the volunteers. Among the regulars I am told it is abating. If leisure allows, I wish you would drop me a line now and then in the same freedom and confidence I do to you. If we have no prospect of some capable distinguished man to command here next spring *without going by the way of Quebec*, as I wished. In truth, I am afraid that J. M-d-n (Madison) cannot manage a war as *ably* as he can conduct an electioneering campaign.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Quarterly Return of the 1st Regiment of Middlesex Militia, 24th December, 1812.

One colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, five captains, five lieutenants, five ensigns, one adjutant, one quartermaster, 11 sergeants, 187 rank and file, 100 stand of arms:

Colonel—Thomas Talbot.

Lieut.-Colonel—Mahlon Burwell.

Major—John Eakins.

Captains—David Secord, Daniel Springer, Gilman Willson, Leslie Patterson, Samuel Edison.

Lieutenants—William Bird, William Saxton, Gideon Tiffany, Moses Rice, Samuel Axford.

Ensigns—Daniel McIntyre, David Davis, Joseph Defields, Benjamin Willson, Samuel Harris.

Adjutant—John Potts.

Quartermaster—Sylvanus Reynolds.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

Statement of the Number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the 1st Norfolk Regiment of Militia on Active Duty in the Year 1812.

From 30th June to 24th July	34
From 25th July to 24th August	74
From 25th August to 24th September	64
From 25th September to 24th October	32
From 25th October to 24th November	64
From 25th November to 24th December	54

(Compiled from a Return in the Talbot Papers.)

Statement of the Number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the 2nd Norfolk Regiment of Militia on Active Duty in the Year 1812.

From 30th June to 24th July	45
From 25th July to 24th August	80
From 25th August to 24th September	74
From 25th September to 24th October	16
From 25th October to 24th November	69
From 25th November to 24th December	42

(Compiled from a Return in the Talbot Papers.)

Statement of the Number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the 1st Regiment of Middlesex Militia on Active Duty in the Year 1812.

From 30th June to 24th July	16
From 25th July to 24th August	16
From 25th August to 24th September	10
From 25th September to 24th October	10
From 25th October to 24th November	84
From 25th November to 24th December	64

(Compiled from a Return in the Talbot Papers.)

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